Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. February 1888.

CONFIDENTIAL.

F.O.
413

(5604.)

PART III.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

FRANCE AND MOROCCO.

[For further Correspondence on this subject, see "North Africa Correspondence," Part XV, Confidential No. 5594.]

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January to June 1887.

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. January 1888.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting France and Morocco.

Part III.

No. 1.

Sir J. S. Lumley to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 1. Africa. Confidential.)

Rome, January 11, 1887.

My Lord,

SIR DRUMMOND HAY, late Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary to the Emperor of Morocco, has come to Rome for a couple of months, and as I knew Count Robilant would be glad to make his acquaintance, I asked leave to present Sir Drummond Hay to him, and accompanied him on Monday to the Foreign Office.

The conversation turned naturally on the condition and prospects of the country in which Sir Drummond Hay has so ably represented Her Majesty's Government for the last forty years, and Count Robilant listened with the greatest interest to his description of the country and its resources, and the character of its inhabitants and their good qualities; at the same time, while he described the Government as one of the most detestable it was possible to conceive, he stated it had been the object of his most earnest efforts to support the authority of the Sultan against the intrigues that were incessantly carried on with the view of dethroning him and replacing him by the Shereef of Wasan, who would be a mere tool in the hands of the French.

Sir D. Hay said, looking at the position of France, it was only natural that she should endeavour to become possessor of such a splendid country, which was evidently on the verge of dissolution; but it was equally natural, as it was the duty of all the other nations interested in the Mediterranean, to do all in their power to prevent such a consummation, which, if once effected, would make France absolute mistress of that sea; if ever the strip of land which forms the southern shores of the Straits of Gibraltar were to fall into the hands of a single Great Power, either by the gradual development of a Protectorate or by a bold *coup de main*, Gibraltar itself would become useless, and Italy, Spain, England, and even Austria would find themselves shut up as in a trap. Hitherto the disruption of the Moorish Empire has been prevented, and of this Sir D. Hay thought he might take some credit to himself; but the possibility of a catastrophe which might put an end to the free passage of the Straits of Gibraltar is one that ought to occupy the serious attention of all the Powers interested in the Mediterranean, with a view of showing France, while evincing to her the utmost consideration and conciliatory feeling, that any attempt on her part even to introduce the small edge of a Protectorate into Morocco would be opposed by one and all.

Sir D. Hay mentioned that one of the means that might serve to accustom the Sultan and his people to the idea of a French Protectorate was a suggestion put forward by M. Féraud, the French Minister, for the establishment of a public market outside the frontier town of Ouchda, under the dual superintendence of a French as well as of a Moorish Governor—a well-devised scheme which, however, might be rendered harmless by the Moorish Government insisting on the market being held, if it is ever established, on the French side of the frontier.

Count Robilant said he was happy to say that the views of the Italian Government on the subject of Morocco were entirely in conformity with those expressed by Sir J. D.

Hay. The Italian phrase "piove sopra di un bagnato"—(it rains upon a man already soaked through)—might be employed to describe what he felt on the subject; and he was particularly glad to think that, having heard this statement made in the presence of Her Majesty's Ambassador, he might consider it to be entirely in accordance with the views of Her Majesty's Government.

On leaving, Sir J. D. Hay said he had spoken with the utmost frankness, believing, as he did, that the interests of England and Italy were alike in this as in other questions, and he placed himself entirely at the disposal of Count Robilant in the event of his wishing to have any further or special information on the subject of Morocco.

When I met Count Robilant the same evening at the Palace he expressed very warmly to me the interest he had taken in Sir J. D. Hay's statements and the pleasure he had derived from making his acquaintance. His Excellency added that, from the latest information he had received, the French were now directing their attention to the Atlantic coast of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 2.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)

Tangier, January 14, 1887.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that M. Féraud and M. Scovasso, the French and Italian Ministers respectively, who were during the last three months at the city of Morocco, where the Sultan is at present residing, returned here the day before yesterday.

I learn, in strict confidence, from M. Scovasso, that though M. Féraud had declared to all his colleagues, before he proceeded to the Moorish Court, he would not have to treat with the Sultan on the subject of a rectification of the Mauro-Algerine frontier, the sole scope of the French Minister's Mission was the settlement of certain frontier lines and questions.

M. Scovasso was secretly consulted by the Sultan on these matters, but though the Italian Minister strongly advised His Shereefian Majesty to avoid making rectifications and other concessions demanded by offering to submit the questions under discussion for decision to the arbitrament of some mutual friendly Government, the Sultan suddenly conceded M. Féraud's demand for the cession of a district described under the name of Genan Borzig, stated to be in the direction of Figuig.

The Sultan, on being reproached by M. Scovasso for having acted with precipitation, defended himself under the plea that the ceded district was Algerian territory when Algeria was under Turkish domination.

With regard to matters in the direction of Ouchda, M. Scovasso was assured by the Moorish Ministers that the Sultan had successfully resisted M. Féraud's demand, that a public market-place should be built in the vicinity of Ouchda for the convenience of the populations on both sides of the frontier, and that a French Consul should be permitted to reside at Ouchda.

Notwithstanding the assertion of the Moorish Minister, I think it will most likely transpire later that in this matter, too, M. Féraud has been successful in imposing his wishes on the Sultan.

In a day or two I will do myself the honour of detailing to your Lordship the import of M. Féraud's proceedings. The cession obtained by him is not one that can have immediate regrettable consequences, and is chiefly of value as marking the active corroding influence on the Maroquine possessions of the French neighbourhood.

M. Scovasso is most anxious that the fact of his having been consulted by the Sultan should not become known, nor that he communicated to me the success of M. Féraud's proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 3.

Mr. Kirby Green to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, Foreign Office.—(*Received January* 26.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)

Tangier, January 18, 1887.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 1, Confidential, of the 4th instant, I had the honour to announce to your Lordship that I had been informed, in a manner that left no doubt on the subject, that the Sultan of Morocco had ceded to France on the demand of the French Minister a district named Genan Borzig, said to be only four hours distant (about 12 miles) from Figuig.

I have since had opportunities of conversing on this occurrence with my Spanish and Italian colleagues, who both take a very serious view of it. The former, Señor Diosdado, however, still is disposed to doubt the cession having been made, though M. Scovasso declares that the Sultan himself informed him of it.

Señor Diosdado lays considerable value on the advice which both he and Sir John Drummond Hay tendered to the Sultan during their mission to the Moorish Court in the spring of 1882, and is unwilling to think that the Sultan has overlooked the promise which my predecessor always considered had been given him by reigning Moorish Sovereigns, that whenever France or any foreign Power put forward a demand for a cession of territory the British Representative should be immediately informed of it, in order that the advice of Her Majesty's Government might be obtained before the Sultan came to a decision on the matter.*

If, however, the Spanish Minister is wrong in thus trusting the wisdom of the Sultan, then he, Señor Diosdado, would consider the step gained by M. Féraud as most disastrous to Morocco, for it would mark, firstly, the determination of France to advance, secondly, the inability of the Sultan to resist that determination, and, probably, thirdly, the platonic nature of the opposition of other Powers to French encroachments on Morocco.

Before proceeding further, I venture to here draw your Lordship's attention to the assurances given in September last—at the very time that M. Féraud was preparing to leave for the Moorish Court—by M. de Freycinet to Mr. Egerton (Mr. Egerton's despatch No. 500, Confidential, of the 27th September, 1886), that the French Minister's instructions were to keep quiet, and not to raise fresh questions on frontier complications in this part of the world. Those assurances were echoed by M. Féraud to his colleagues when they took leave of him prior to his departure for the city of Morocco. These two official declarations ought to add weight to Señor Diosdado's hope that, after all, the cession of territory has not been finally admitted by the Sultan.

Yet Señor Diosdado has deemed it his duty to at once draw the attention of the Spanish Government to the serious turn which will have been given to the political situation in Morocco should the report about Genan Borzig be confirmed, and he has done me the honour of extending to me the confidence which he had always evinced towards my predecessor, by reading to me the Report which he has addressed to Señor Moret on this subject.

My Spanish colleague's arguments are all conceived in the same spirit as those of Sir John Drummond Hay, who attached the greatest importance to the conservation of the political *status quo* in Morocco, and the consequent maintenance of the integrity of its territory. I feel it would be presumptuous in me to endeavour to repeat, or even summarize, the arguments with which my predecessor always so forcibly supported a policy which he had successfully practised for nearly half-a-century; but the following paragraph which I quote from Sir John Drummond Hay's despatch to Lord Granville No. 24, Secret, of the 24th March, 1884, I am sure is deserving of the serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government at the present juncture:—

"Under these circumstances, I venture to submit that no time should be lost in coming to an understanding with other Powers regarding the maintenance of the integrity and independence of Morocco, occupying as it does by its northern seaboard the passage to the Mediterranean for the shipping and commerce of all nations. If the Powers of Europe and America entered into an international arrangement by which the integrity of Morocco would be upheld and the independence of its Sovereign maintained, that would be a fitting time to require, and even to insist, that the Sultan and his Government should introduce reforms and improvements for the benefit of the civilized

* *Vide* Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 78, Confidential, of May 14, 1882.

world, and open the great resources of this country, rich in agricultural produce and minerals, to foreign enterprize."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 4.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 31.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)
Tangier, January 21, 1887.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4, Confidential, of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Scovasso, the Italian Minister, this morning read to me, in strict confidence, a translation of the letter from the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs to M. Féraud, by which the Sultan consents to the cession of the district of Genan Borzig to France.

Cid Emfadl Gharneet's letter bears the date of the 14th November last, and is conceived in terms so subservient as to produce the impression that the Moorish Government has wished to mark its readiness to subordinate itself to the directions of France.

The letter states that M. Féraud, having explained to the Sultan that Genan Borzig, a district of more than 6 hours' extent (? about 18 miles), is required by the Algerian Government to erect in it a battery (? block-house) for the better security of the French possessions, and M. Féraud having asserted that Genan Borzig had belonged from ancient times to Algeria, the fact must be so; and the Sultan consequently has directed Abd-el-Malek, the Basha of Ouchda, to inform the inhabitants of Genan Borzig to whom they owe allegiance. His Shereefian Majesty in the meantime expresses the hope that M. Féraud will cause the Algerine authorities to respect the vested rights of the said inhabitants in their plantations and other property.

When M. Scovasso was endeavouring to induce the Sultan to avoid compliance with the French Minister's demand, he intimated that Genan Borzig must be of some strategical importance; and the Sultan admitted that it commands the most important passes into the Province of Figuig.

M. Scovasso has also told me that he has refrained from communicating the substance of the letter in question to the Spanish Minister, as M. Diosdado has not, in his turn, confided to him (M. Scovasso) all the steps he had taken, whilst M. Féraud was at the Moorish Court, to endeavour to induce the Sultan's Government to resist every attempt of the French Minister to obtain territorial concessions on the Algerian frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 5.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 31.)

(No. 6. Confidential.)
Tangier, January 21, 1887.

My Lord,

THIS morning, in the course of a call I was paying to M. Scovasso, the Italian Minister, he did me the honour of reading to me a despatch he had just received from Count Robilant, repeating the language on British policy in Morocco, held by Sir John Drummond Hay to his Excellency during a visit which my predecessor had paid to him, Count Robilant, in company with Sir John Savile Lumley.

Sir John Drummond Hay's able conduct of British interests in Morocco during the forty-six years that he was Her Majesty's Representative in this country is so fully known and appreciated in your Lordship's Department, that I will not endeavour to repeat here all that Count Robilant states that he heard from him as to the international advantages to be secured by the maintenance of the Moorish Empire and the integrity of its territory. I need only say that Count Robilant in his despatch laid special stress on the fact that Sir John Drummond Hay was accompanied in his visit by Sir John Savile Lumley, and that Her Majesty's Ambassador, as my predecessor developed the motives of his policy and explained the manner in which he had carried it out, at each stage assured the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government shared Sir John Drummond Hay's views and were still following them out in Morocco.

I told M. Scovasso that Count Robilant's recital of the language he had heard was, I felt sure, most exact, for I had frequently had the advantage to listen to Sir John Hay's explanations of his most able policy. On one point only, and that one the one which appeared to have been considered as most conclusive both by Count Robilant and Signor Scovasso, I was convinced my predecessor had been misunderstood, though I doubted not he had been led away to use exaggerated arguments in order to enforce attention to the narrow lines within which his policy ran.

Count Robilant recounts that Sir John Drummond Hay said that the maintenance of the Moorish *status quo* would become impossible the moment an attempt was made to introduce reforms in the Shereefian Government and to make it enter into the path of progress and civilization, for not only was the Sultan's administration so rotten that the first attempt to improve it would bring the whole structure down by the run, but also the word "civilization" was the thin edge of the wedge by which France always began its aggressions and annexations. The present system of Moorish Government should therefore be supported, and civilizing influences kept away.

I earnestly begged my Italian colleague to believe that nothing could be further from Sir John Drummond Hay's intentions than to support the present iniquities of the Moorish Government, and to bar Morocco against progress. The archives of this Legation were one unbroken record of my precedessor's untiring efforts to lead the Sultans, past and present, to adopt the only course which can save the country from ruin, and that I knew it as a positive fact that Sir John Hay's chief satisfaction at having retired, was that he would have rest from the duty of counselling unwilling ears and minds.

I would respectfully venture to suggest to your Lordship that in face of the rather narrow policy which both the Italian and Spanish Ministers are following here, almost under the open declaration that they have taken up the political running of my predecessor—an opportunity should be taken in Rome and Madrid of explaining that Sir John Drummond Hay never opposed progress here, and that Her Majesty's Government, whilst determined to maintain the independence and integrity of the Moorish Empire, are equally certain that it can only be accomplished by inducing the Sultan to move with the times.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 6.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)
Madrid, January 29, 1887.

My Lord,

I SAW Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, this afternoon. He appeared to be somewhat troubled by some intelligence that he had received from the Spanish Representative at Tangier, who had informed him that the French Minister in Morocco had recently returned from a journey he had made to the Sultan at Fez, where he had obtained for his country some very important territorial concessions to the north, in the vicinity of the Algerian frontier, and Señor Moret seemed alarmed least French influence was on the eve of assuming a state of preponderance in the Empire of Morocco.

To establish that preponderance, he said, had been the aim of the present French Minister in Morocco ever since he set foot there, and whom he described as a Levantine and a renegade.

Señor Moret averred that he could not contemplate this state of affairs with indifference; that it was a matter of the greatest importance to Spain, and that he, as a Spanish Minister, would not tolerate an extension of French territory in the direction of Melilla and, perhaps, later, of Ceuta.

He inquired of me whether I had any knowledge of the subject, to which I replied that I had none, but that I felt certain Her Majesty's Government were kept well informed of everything that was passing in Morocco by Her Majesty's Minister there, Mr. Kirby Green, and that for my part I had no reason to suppose that Her Majesty's Government had departed from the policy which they had always held as regarded Morocco, namely, that of the maintenance of the *status quo*.

I inquired of Señor Moret whether he could give me any positive details as to what he had heard, and he promised to do so in a few days; but as his Excellency appeared

anxious that I should communicate at once to your Lordship on the subject, I promised him I would do so by this evening's post.

As I was leaving Señor Moret informed me that he intended to-day to telegraph to the Spanish Ministers at Berlin and Rome on this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 7.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 6. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 1, 4, and 5, Confidential, of January 14, 18, and 21, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 2, 3, and 4.]

No. 8.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)
Tangier, January 25, 1887.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have learnt, from a source which I have reason to believe has been well informed, that not only has the Sultan made the cession of territory on his Algerian frontiers, already reported in my Confidential despatches Nos. 1 and 4 of the 14th and 18th instant, but that His Shereefian Majesty has further ceded to France, at the instance of M. Féraud, the whole of the country lying between the points Magoura and Aïn Shaïr, which are both marked on Justus Perthe's last ten-sheet Map of Africa.

The territory thus cut off from Morocco, to the advantage of Algeria, appears to be very considerable, and throws quite in the shade the 18-miles district of Genan Borzig, the cession of which was obtained on the plea of having formerly been under the jurisdiction of the Deys of Algiers.

My informant tells me that he heard from the Sultan that the distance between Magoura and Aïn Shaïr is one of twelve hours (? 36 miles); but if the German Map is correct, the statement of Cid Emfadl Gharneet, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the same informant, that it is a three days' journey (? 108 miles) from point to point, is more in accordance with the truth.

I learn, moreover, that the Sultan has also given way to M. Féraud's demand for the building of a market place on Moorish territory, on the outside of the town of Ouchda, and that, as stated in my despatch No. 76 of the 6th ultimo, a French officer is to administer justice at this market place in conjunction with a Moorish official. 2,000 regular soldiers, a considerable force of irregular cavalry, and some artillery have already been prepared at Morocco, together with a number of masons and other artizans, to proceed to Ouchda for carrying out the arrangements for establishing the "police à deux" and building the market place.

Thus, your Lordship will observe that not only most important rectifications of the Mauro-Algerian frontier have been effected, but also that the Sultan has commenced to accept the idea of French assistance in administrative matters on his own territory.

The following details of the manner in which the concessions were carried through in the Sultan's Council are so circumstantial that I see but little room for hope that my informant may have prematurely drawn conclusions when he found M. Féraud had succeeded in the matters of the Ouchda market and Genan Borzig district.

He tells me that the Sultan having submitted to his counsellors the French demands and Signor Scovasso's urgent advice that, as far as he knew them, the demands should be turned aside by the offer to submit them for decision to some mutual friendly Government, a prompt reply was given that the Italian Government having failed to afford effective assistance to Tunis, where its political and material interests were much greater than in Morocco, no useful result could be expected from following the Italian Minister's suggestion. As for the advantage of appealing to Great Britain for support, which course the Sultan also submitted to his advisers, they equally rejected it on the ground that England could only assist the Sultan by sea, and that, in the actual circumstances,

His Shereefian Majesty had only to consider the fact that a refusal of French demands would entail the immediate advance on Moorish territory of from 30,000 to 50,000 French troops, which were probably already echeloned along the Algerian frontier.

The only stipulation which the Moorish Council caused the Sultan to make with M. Féraud was, that His Majesty should not be called upon to effect the cessions of territory, nor be held responsible for the resistance which the ceded inhabitants might offer to the French. M. Féraud, it is perhaps needless to add, accepted them without hesitation.

These occurrences mark but too clearly the complete disappearance of the sagacious and prudent advisers who formerly led the Moorish Court, and who knew so well how to avert the dangers with which the country was being constantly threatened, never giving way but when every quarter had been appealed to for help and had been found wanting. Now the demoralization and weakness which has thus suddenly set in is so great, that I am assured mutual congratulations were exchanged between Moorish Court officials when the decision was arrived at to accord the French demands. Perhaps the whisper which reaches me of M. Féraud having used more potent arguments than words may account for the satisfaction of men whose one idea is to enrich themselves at all hazards and by any means.

I propose at once addressing a letter to Cid Emfadl Gharneet to ask his Excellency to what extent the reports reaching me of territorial cessions to France are true. I shall justify my doing so by recalling to his mind the belief of my predecessor that he held a distinct promise from the Moorish Court that no demands for Maroquine territory would be acceded to until after Her Majesty's Government had been consulted on the matter.

It is probable that the Minister's reply will be of an evasive nature, stating that no cession has been made, and that only the right of France has been admitted to districts hitherto claimed by both countries. Such a reply from Cid Emfadl Gharneet, and analogous assurances from France, would afford a fair opportunity for joint action for checking future French encroachments by the Governments of Great Britain, Spain, and Italy.

But should the assurances that may be obtained both here and in Paris not be followed up by other steps, the transfer of Morocco to France would then be rapidly accomplished on the same lines as the Tunis Protectorate, and would probably be represented to the French public as a satisfactory national compensation for British proceedings in Egypt. In that case I would respectfully draw your Lordship's attention to my despatch No. 73, Most Secret and Confidential, of the 14th November last.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 9.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 11. Confidential.)
Tangier, January 26, 1887.

My Lord,

I THIS morning discussed with my Spanish colleague, Señor Diosdado, the news which had reached me of the Sultan's further concessions to M. Féraud, as reported in my despatch No. 9, Confidential, of yesterday's date.

Señor Diosdado said that he was not disposed to blame the Moorish Government for having acted as it is said it has done. When the French Minister was eighteen months ago on a visit to the Sultan, His Shereefian Majesty had been strongly advised by him, Señor Diosdada, and several other foreign Representatives, to refuse all demands for a rectification of the Algerian frontier, but the advice had been unaccompanied by assurances of support from abroad if the French Government should proceed to exact the desired rectification by force. M. Féraud had, nevertheless, returned from Fez empty-handed, the Sultan having followed the advice which had been tendered to him. Now, however, M. Féraud had gone back to the Moorish Court, had made known to the Sultan that he was aware of the cause of his former failure, and had renewed his demands, probably asserting that he did so in spite of the foreign Representatives, and because there were from 30,000 to 50,000 French soldiers echeloned on the borders where France intended to have her way. Señor Diosdado repeated that, under these circumstances, he

* Urging that England should be prepared to seize Tangier on first sign of immediate disruption of Morocco.

felt that the Sultan had adopted the only course open to him. The moment had therefore arrived when the nations interested in the maintenance of the freedom of the navigation of the Straits of Gibraltar must decide whether that freedom could be secured by allowing France to be the mistress of the southern shores of the Straits. The Spanish Minister is of opinion that neither the Spanish possessions in Morocco (Ceuta, &c.), nor any other points on the Straits, could be held the moment French troops threatened them from the interior.

Señor Diosdado then read to me a Report, which he had just received from Mogador, on the proceedings of the son of the late Sheikh Hussein, who exercised immense spiritual influence over the Soos country. Sheikh Hussein's son has not only inherited his father's spiritual power, but also his ambition; and he has resumed the intrigues with the French Vice-Consul at Mogador, who had promised Sheikh Hussein that the French Government would accept the Protectorate of the Soos country, the moment its inhabitants declared themselves independent of the Sultan of Morocco.

Sheikh Hussein's son has, within the last few weeks, raised the standard of revolt, which has been joined by all but four insignificant clans. It is said he disposes of large sums of money, which reach him from a French source, and that, as soon as he has been able to mark in an undoubted manner his power, he will declare some convenient point of the Soos coast a port open to trade under French protection, and which protection will be at once efficaciously accorded.

Señor Diosdado tells me that the advance of the French in the direction of Figuig (the acquisition of Genan Borzig is said to bring them within four hours of the locality) has been entirely made, with the object of working round into Morocco by the southern extremity of the Atlas mountain range, and that a friendly reception of a French invading force by the warlike Soos tribes would carry with it almost the bloodless conquest of the whole of the rest of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 10.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 33. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 4, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 1, 4, and 5, Confidential, of January 14, 18, and 21, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 2, 3, and 4.]

No. 11.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 11. Confidential.)
Madrid, February 1, 1887.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I saw Señor Moret, by appointment, this afternoon, at the Ministry of State.

His Excellency informed me that he was perfectly certain as to the accuracy of the information he had given me on the 29th ultimo, as reported to your Lordship in my above-mentioned despatch, and he repeated the extreme alarm he felt lest the action taken by M. Féraud, the French Representative in Morocco, should meet with the approval of his Government; such an event would, he said, indubitably lead to the preponderance of French influence in Morocco, and pave the way to the eventual dismemberment of that Empire.

The ear of the Sultan of Morocco, his Excellency said, was no longer turned in the direction of English or Italian counsels, but had veered round to an alarming extent in favour of France.

On my desiring Señor Moret to explain to me exactly the present position of affairs as he understood it, his Excellency produced a Map on which was marked a very considerable portion of territory, the cession of which he asserted had been granted by the Sultan to M. Féraud during the late visit which the latter had paid to His Shereefian Majesty.

I should mention that the Map his Excellency showed me was one printed in Germany by Justus Perthes, Map of Africa in ten sheets, and that the first sheet marked "Sektion West Sahara" was the one his Excellency showed me. The line traced on it, and which Señor Moret said comprised the portion of territory which had been ceded to the French, ran from a place marked "Ras-el-Ain" passing south by Magoura, to another locality marked "Ainschair."

Señor Moret further stated that he had received reliable information with regard to a scheme which it was contemplated carrying out by French intrigue, by which certain tribes inhabiting the extreme south-western corner of the Empire in the vicinity of the district known by the name of Wad Nun were to be incited to revolt, and that the movement would be utilized by the French to intervene with the view of placing that part of the Empire under a French Protectorate. The same opportunity would be availed of in order to secure a good and commodious harbour on the coast. Should these ambitious designs be realized, Señor Moret said that the whole of Morocco south of the Atlas Mountains would virtually fall into the hands of France.

His Excellency then informed me that his object in speaking to me on these matters was that I should bring them, in a strictly confidential form, before your Lordship, and that he was very anxious of eliciting, with the least possible delay, an expression of opinion, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, as to the feelings with which they would regard the several points which he had brought to my knowledge; and also as to the important matter as to whether Her Majesty's Government had reason to alter or modify what, he maintained, had always been considered by successive Spanish Governments to be the English policy with regard to Morocco, namely, a desire of maintaining the *status quo*, and of perserving the sovereignty and independence of the Sultan as an integral factor of North African politics.

He confessed, he said, that the present state of Morocco was an exceedingly delicate one, and that he was debating in his mind whether or not to speak to M. Cambon, the French Ambassador at Madrid, concerning it. He hesitated, however, in doing so, lest he should make matters worse, and, by arousing the suspicions of the French Government by a revelation of all he knew, run the risk of precipitating action on their part, which he was naturally most desirous not to do.

He went on to say that should France be determined to pursue a policy calculated to disturb the integrity of the Empire of Morocco without due notice being given to Spain of such an intention, such a course would amount to a grave infraction of the stipulations of an Agreement which had been entered iuto between the two Governments.

That engagement, said his Excellency, had been made at a Conference which had been held in Paris in the year 1884 on the affairs of Morocco. On that occasion the Plenipotentiaries of France were M. Ferry, then Minister for Foreign Affairs, and M. Ortega, French Representative in Morocco, and on the part of Spain Señor Silvela, then Spanish Ambassador in Paris, and Señor Deodaros, Spanish Representative in Morocco.

He added that, should matters take such a turn as to show that France was bent on territorial acquisitions in Morocco, public opinion in Spain would become so excited that no Spanish Government would be strong enough to withstand it, and a repetition might possibly take place of what occurred in 1885, when the question of the Caroline Islands was on the tapis. Apart, said Señor Moret, from the deep personal interest I take in all that concerns Morocco, I would infinitely prefer to lead any movement which sprung from strong national feeling on the subject than, by opposing it, be carried away by the stream.

It is true, he said, that Spain is a weak Power as compared to France, but other nations are fully as interested as we are in the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco, and of its integrity; and we turn to England to extend to us that moral support of which we shall stand in need whenever we find ourselves compelled to address a remonstrance to the Government of France as to its policy in that country.

Were Her Majesty's Government to give us an assurance that we could rely on that support, our hands would be materially strengthened, and a knowledge at Paris that we had no lack of powerful friends would go far to dispel the storm which, he said, was impending over Morocco. He trusted, too, that he would be able to reckon on the support of Germany and Italy; but no time must be lost. M. Féraud is on his way to Paris, and some decided steps should be taken before his arrival there, when the part he has lately played at Fez may meet with the approval of his Government, and lead to the French schemes of aggrandizement being a *fait accompli*.

I have faithfully reported Señor Moret's words, and I shall await your Lordship's instructions before broaching the subject again to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.*

ASSURE Señor Moret of our moral support in any efforts he may make to secure the independence and integrity of Morocco.

Advise consultation with Italy.

No. 13.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 11. Most Confidential. Ext. 2.)
Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.

Sir,

WITH reference to previous correspondence relative to the proceedings of the French in Morocco, I have to request you to assure Señor Moret of the moral support of Her Majesty's Government in any efforts the Spanish Government may make to secure the independence and integrity of the Sultan's domains.

You should also inform his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government consider that it would be advisable for his Government to consult with that of Italy in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 14.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.[*]

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.*

YOUR despatches Nos. 9 and 11.

Sound your Italian and Spanish colleagues very confidentially as to putting pressure on the Sultan to promise to make no further alienation of territory.

No. 15.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 7. Very Confidential. Ext. 1.)
Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 9, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, and No. 11, Confidential, of the 26th ultimo, I have to request you to take an early opportunity of sounding your Italian and Spanish colleagues very confidentially as to exercising pressure on the Sultan to induce His Majesty to give an undertaking not to make any further alienation of Moorish territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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[*] Repeated to Rome (No. 19) and to Madrid (No. 1).

No. 16.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 84. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 1, 4, 5, 9, and 11, Confidential, of January 14, 18, 21, 25, and 26; Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 1, Africa, Confidential, of January 11; Sir Clare Ford's No. 11, Confidential, of February 1; and No. 1, Telegraphic, to Mr. Kirby Green, dated February 5, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, and 14.

No. 17.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 10. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 1, Africa, Confidential, of January 11, 1887: *ante*, No. 1.]

No. 18.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 6. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 1, Africa, Confidential, of January 11, 1887: *ante*, No. 1.]

No. 19.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7, 3 30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tangier, February 7, 1887, 11·20 A.M.*

YOUR telegram of the 5th.

My Italian and Spanish colleagues have accepted my suggestions to move their Governments to instruct them to obtain engagements from the Sultan to consent to no further alienation of Moorish territory except after having submitted demands for territorial cessions to consideration of Governments of Great Britain and Italy and Spain.

I have been careful to leave my colleagues under the belief that suggestion is entirely my own.

No. 20.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 12. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, February 8, 1887.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10, Confidential, of the 5th instant, I transmit, for your information, the accompanying copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,[*] in regard to the question of the preservation of the independence of Morocco.

I have to request that you will explain to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs the misapprehension which has arisen in regard to Sir J. D. Hay's language to Count Robilant, and at the same time express the hope that the Spanish Minister at Tangier may be directed to co-operate with his British colleague in urging the Moorish Government to adopt a policy which will be the best security for preserving the independence of the Moorish Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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[*] Nos. 5 and 21.

No. 21.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 36. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1887.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 1, Africa, Confidential, of the 11th ultimo, I transmit, for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* and I have to request your Excellency to take steps to remove the misapprehension which appears to have arisen in regard to Sir J. D. Hay's views as to the best means of preserving the independence of Morocco.

This apparent misunderstanding on the part of Count Robilant is a very grave one. So far from considering that the maintenance of the *status quo* in that country would become impossible if the introduction of reforms were attempted, Her Majesty's Government have been convinced that reform and improvement were the only means of saving Morocco from foreign aggression and ruin.

These views, as Mr. Kirby Green truly points out, have been constantly and energetically pressed upon the Moorish Government by Sir J. D. Hay, and will continue to be urged by his successor.

I have to request your Excellency to communicate the inclosed despatch, confidentially, to Count Robilant, and at the same time to express the hope that the Italian Government will co-operate with that of Her Majesty in urging this policy on the Moorish Government. Your Excellency will also show to Sir J. D. Hay this instruction and Mr. Kirby Green's despatch.

A copy of a similar instruction to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid is likewise inclosed for you Excellency's information.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 22.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 8. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1887.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 6, Confidential, of the 21st ultimo, reporting the substance of your conversation with the Italian Minister at Tangier respecting the recent visit of Sir J. D. Hay to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the language used by you to remove Count Robilant's apparent misapprehension of Sir J. D. Hay's views as to the best means of preserving the integrity of Morocco.

In conveying to you my entire approval of your proceedings, I have to state that Her Majesty's Representatives at Rome and at Madrid have been instructed in accordance with your suggestion.

Copies of those instructions are inclosed herewith.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 23.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 97. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 9, Confidential, of January 29, 1887: *ante*, No. 6.]

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* No. 5. † No. 20. ‡ Nos. 10 and 2

No. 24.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 13. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 9 and 11, Confidential, of January 25 and 26, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 8 and 9.]

No. 25.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 37. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 9, Confidential, of January 29; and Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 9 and 11, Confidential, of January 25 and 26, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 6, 8, and 9.]

No. 26.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 9. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 9, Confidential, of January 29, 1887: *ante*, No. 6.]

No. 27.

Viscount Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 73.)

My Lord, *Paris, February* 8, 1887.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 84 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a notice which has appeared in the "Temps" and other unofficial newspapers, and which calls in question the accuracy of the information given in the London "Times" of the day before yesterday respecting a rectification of the frontier between Algeria and Morocco.

The notice has probably been inserted at the suggestion of the French authorities. It states that what is true is only that M. Féraud has obtained from the Sultan authority to build, at a point which has hitherto been in dispute on the frontier, what is called in those countries a "bordj."

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Extract from the "Temps" of February 8, 1887.

LE correspondant du "Times" à Tanger dit avoir appris de bonne source que M. Féraud, Ministre de France au Maroc, avait obtenu l'assentiment du Sultan pour une rectification importante de la frontière Maroco-Algérienne.

Ainsi présentée, la nouvelle n'est pas exacte. Ce qui est vrai, c'est que M. Féraud a obtenu du Sultan l'autorisation de construire sur un point jusque-là contesté de la frontière Algérienne ce qu'on appelle dans ces contrées un "bordj."

No. 28.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.**

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 9, 1887, 6·20 P.M.

[See No. 19.]

Her Majesty's Government authorize suggestion.

No. 29.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 9, 1887, 6·20 P.M.

YOUR telegram of the 7th instant.

Inform your Spanish and Italian colleagues that Her Majesty's Government authorize your suggestion.

No. 30.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 10. Most Confidential. Ext. 2.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 9, 1887.

IN reply to your telegram of the 7th instant, I approve the confidential communication which you report that you made to the Italian and Spanish Representatives at Tangier, as to exercising pressure on the Sultan to withhold his consent to any further alienation of Moorish territory; and I have now to request that you will inform your Spanish and Italian colleagues that your communication is authorized by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 31.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 15. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 1, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 9, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, and to my other recent communications on the matter of the alleged cessions of Moorish territory on the Algerian frontier, that I to-day called on my French colleague, M. Féraud, and mentioned to him that rumours had been in circulation for some time past of territorial acquisitions made, through his influence over Mulai Hassan, in favour of Algeria.

M. Féraud at once begged me to consider myself authorized by him to state that there was absolutely no truth in these rumours, for the Sultan had made no cessions of territory, nor had he been asked to make any.

I told M. Féraud that I had been assured that a frontier-line had been drawn from Magoura to Aïn Shaïr, and that a district near Figuig, named Genan Borzig, had been at the same time incorporated within the Algerian lines.

My colleague hereupon offered to explain to me by Maps in his possession that the localities named had belonged to France since the frontier settlement of 1845. But, M. Féraud said, he would first begin with the district of Genan Borzig. (He probably felt that I had seen a copy of Cid Emfadel Gharneet's letter to him on the subject.) Since his arrival in Morocco, eighteen months ago, he proceeded, he has been endeavouring to convince the Sultan of the sincerity of the wish of the French Government to establish a state of things on the Mauro-Algerian frontiers which will prevent the

* Also to Sir Clare Ford (No. 3).

possibility of infractions of Algerian territory being constantly committed by the unruly and marauding Moorish tribes of the neighbouring regions. To carry out this desirable object the military authorities of Algeria have decided to build block-houses along nearly the whole extent of their Moorish frontier. But block-houses can only be built in countries like these where a plentiful supply of water exists, and this supply having been ascertained, after a preliminary survey by the Military Staff of the Colony, nearly all the eligible localities have been fixed upon. The most southern of these localities is named Genan Borzig (marked on the military Map shown me by M. Féraud, "Djenan Bo Zeiz"). Yet my colleague asserts, though Genan Borzig is to be the site of a block-house, it is 6 hours distant (? 18 miles) from the Moorish frontier, and this frontier a further 16 hours (? 48 miles) from Figuig. The absence of a proper water supply at a point nearer the frontier has been the sole reason for endowing Genan Borzig with a block-house, and the only question that arose between the Sultan and M. Féraud concerning the locality was the claim put forward by a native of Figuig to some of the few trees existing there. The French Representative had no difficulty in making His Shereefian Majesty understand that the man, though a native of Figuig, might still be lawfully the owner of property in Algeria.

The above explanation can be made to accord, in a rough way, with the Moorish Minister's letter to M. Féraud, but I prefer to remain under the impression first left on my mind that the Moorish Government, when it penned its letter, was under the conviction that it was parting with a piece of Moorish territory.

M. Féraud proceeding then to point out to me on the Military Staff Map the other points where block-houses are to be built, I noticed that the chain of these structures was made to end at Magoura, and I at once observed to him that this locality, in the last German Map, was marked as being well on Moorish territory. M. Féraud maintained that Magoura had always been within the Algerian frontier, and that, further, the Aïn Shaïr I had mentioned must also be on French territory, as he scouted the idea of its being placed where I stated it was marked on the sheet of Justus Perthes.

M. Féraud endeavoured to bear out these statements by a number of other Maps which he produced, but as they none of them showed Magoura either on the French or the Moorish side, nor a second Aïn Shaïr, he objected to the Maps as not being of official origin. He, however, promised to show me, on a future occasion, the proper Aïn Shaïr, so that I felt he wished me to understand that he did not deny that the Mauro-Algerian frontier now runs in a straight line from Magoura to an Aïn Shaïr, wherever the French Military Staff may have decided that locality is to exist.

My conversation to-day with M. Féraud having clearly shown that, if encroachments have been made on Moorish territory, they are of a nature that it will be excessively difficult to establish, except under a technical survey of the localities themselves, the value of further discussion of the question becomes very doubtful, unless Her Majesty's Government or other foreign Governments hold that it is of paramount importance that the Mauro-Algerian frontiers shall remain immutable after they have had a voice in fixing them. I believe that it would be impossible to secure such immobility under any other conditions, and that, therefore, it will be sufficient for the present to remain content with the French Government's denial of an intention to advance, keeping all the time a watch on each separate unannounced encroachment, so that, when it is observed that a serious and open advance is about to be made, we may not be taken by surprise or be found unprepared with a counter-move for securing our own special interests in this country.

Before concluding, I feel impelled to admit further to your Lordship that I find it extremely difficult to bring myself to censure strongly the steps forward which the French are evidently making on so-called Moorish ground.

Until a complete change for the better arises in the Government of Morocco, I cannot see how the French can stop their onward course, for they always remain confronted with disorder and barbarism of unknown depth. Nor can I share altogether the hope of my Spanish and Italian colleagues that Sultan Mulai Hassan is a sufficient quantity with which to withstand the inroads of organized government. I consequently revert to the conclusion first arrived at by me, that, whilst we should use every effort to lead the Moorish Government to improve and strengthen itself, we must never lose sight of the fact that imminent danger to the free navigation through the Straits of Gibraltar may suddenly call for energetic and independent British action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 32.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)

Madrid, February 8, 1887.

My Lord,

I SAW Señor Moret, the Spanish Secretary of State, yesterday afternoon, and he appeared much gratified when I communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's telegram, which I had received on Saturday night, the 5th instant, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government would give their moral support to the efforts the Spanish Government might make in order to secure the independence and integrity of Morocco.

I then informed Señor Moret that the portion of territory which the Sultan appeared to have granted to the French comprised a district in the direction of Figuig, known under the name of Genan Borzig.

His Excellency replied that that was perfectly true, and conicided with the information he had received on the subject from Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Representative at Tangier, in a despatch dated the 16th January, but that he had subsequently received another despatch, dated the 27th of that month, in which the Minister reported other concessions of territory of far greater extent and import. They were fully reported by me to your Lordship in my despatch No. 11, Confidential, of the 1st instant; but, as I was anxious to see, if possible, the despatch which had been addressed to his Excellency by Señor Diosdado, I asked Señor Moret if he would object to my doing so. Señor Moret acquiesced, and sent it to my house last evening, and after I had made a translation of it (copy of which is herein inclosed) I returned it to him.

It fully bears out what Señor Moret told me at the interview I held with him on the 1st instant.

Señor Moret informed me that he had made up his mind to speak to the French Ambassador here as to what he had heard respecting M. Féraud's movements in Morocco, and that he had done so the other day. He had said to the French Ambassador: "What is this I hear from Morocco? I trust that France will not forget her engagement not to interfere in the affairs of Morocco without going hand-in-hand with Spain." To which M. Cambon had replied that he had no reason to believe there was any prospect of such a course being pursued. M. Cambon had then gone on to speak in high terms of M. Féraud, whom he had known in Tripoli, and stated that it had been principally at his recommendation that M. Féraud had acquired his present post.

Señor Moret told me that from M. Cambon's manner, and from what he said, that he was perfectly convinced he knew nothing of what had passed at Fez, or of the concessions which had been granted there to the French Representative.

M. Cambon mentioned to Señor Moret the fact that M. Féraud would pass through Madrid on his way to Paris, and that he would take care that a meeting should be held between him and that gentleman.

I inquired of Señor Moret what impression the late news from Morocco had produced on the Italian Government, and he replied that from information he had received it appeared that all they had heard of had reference to the cession of Genan Borzig only; he expected, however, to be able to give me further news shortly.

His Excellency then said that he had heard from the Spanish Minister in Berlin that he was on the point of dispatching a special messenger to Madrid, with important despatches relative to the affairs of Morocco, and that he was in expectation also of receiving fresh information from Señor Diosdada at Tangier, which he would be in a position to communicate to me on Thursday next, the 10th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Señor Diosdado to Señor Moret.

(Translation.)

(Most Confidential.)

Tangier, January 27, 1887.

Your Excellency,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant, Most Confidential, by which your Excellency learnt that it was said that the territory known by the name of Genan

Borgiz had been ceded to France, and which territory is on the road of Figuig, and distant from it about four hours, I have the honour to communicate to you to-day information of a far graver character respecting the cession of the extensive zone comprised between Majura and Ain-Schair.

Some years ago, as your Excellency can see by my despatches to which reference was made in my above-mentioned despatch, I called the attention of the Government to the accomplishment of the rectification of the Algerian frontier or of a cession of Moorish territory to France in regions where the Kingdoms of Fez and Morocco find their natural barrier of defence, owing to the conditions of those tribes dwelling in them, who, in case an army should attempt to scale the almost inaccessible heights of the Atlas range, could not leave them in its rear so long as those tribes were hostile. It follows as a consequence of my despatches and private letters addressed to the Ministers, that if the cession of Moorish territory to France to the west of the actual frontier of the latter Power should be acquiesced in by those nations who take an interest in the existence of a Mussulman State in a condition of independence on the other side of the Straits of Gibraltar, it would amount to consenting to what was allowed to pass in Tunis, and to, if not now by right at some other time by act, France acquiring the Protectorate over Morocco.

The extensive zone comprised between Majura and Ain-Schair (source of barley), which your Excellency can see in the Map published by Justus Perthes, Majura is situated on the north parallel 34 and the other point north parallel 32, north-east of Figuig; were this occupied by France, it would give that Power such a hold over Morocco that I doubt whether the Sultan would be able in future to maintain a position of independence towards the other Powers.

France would acquire immediately and in fact a preponderating influence until such time as by right she should assume a positive Protectorate. Should the Sultan be threatened nearer home, and be deprived of powerful means of resistance, it is obvious that the interests and wishes of France would preponderate over the rights and interests of other Powers, and the constant preoccupation of the Government of Morocco would consist in endeavouring to avoid a conflict with that Power, which at any given moment would be able to invade the Kingdoms of Fez and Morocco without any risk of leaving in its rear those dangerous fanatical and warlike tribes above mentioned.

Your Excellency will recollect that M. Féraud, on a former mission to the Court of Morocco, demanded, amongst other things, the establishment of a zone or international concession on some point of the frontier, the construction of forts, and grants of land, and that His Majesty the Sultan informed me in the strictest confidence of these demands, and subsequently took the advice of the Italian and British Ministers as to the answer which he should give. We tendered our advice, and nothing more. That was the opportunity, in my opinion, when we should have done something more, and have thereby obviated the persistency of French demands, which this time appear to have been crowned with success.

Your Excellency will observe that on this occasion the Sultan has dispensed with asking for counsel; he has gone his own way, well or badly. No doubt His Majesty has said to himself that in order to resist France he should clearly understand up to what point the independence of Morocco interested the other Powers.

I am informed that the Sultan, before making concessions to France, took the advice of his Council of State, who—but I must state this with the greatest reserve—said that it was impossible to trust in Italy, because, that country having failed to protect its neighbours in Tunis, it was idle to suppose they would act in defence of Morocco, which was situated at a far greater distance, and that England could not be counted on, as her strength consisted in her naval resources.

Your Excellency will perceive that I have not exaggerated the importance of this cession of territory to France from an international point of view, and that the request for a rectification of frontier did not consist in merely asking for a portion of territory more or less large, but in endeavouring to obtain a preponderating influence in order to arrive at an effective Protectorate by right, if not, indeed, at a complete absorption of the country.

The manner in which the Sultan has given in to the demands of M. Féraud proves that, being aware of his weakness to resist, he yields to France.

I can hardly conceive that so prudent an Agent as M. Féraud should have raised this question had he not trusted in the connivance of the other Powers, and that they would not place a veto on the extension on the part of France of the limits defined in the Treaty of 1845,* copy of which I had the honour to transmit to your Excellency in my despatch of the 16th instant.

* State Papers, vol. xxxiv, p. 1287.

I must conclude this despatch by recording the fact that if France extends her frontiers march by march, the French flag will approach our strong places, and will eventually command the Straits, which is what I have already pointed out in previous despatches, and which to my mind constitutes the real importance of what is called the "Morocco question."

I have, &c.
(Signed) DIOSDADO Y CASTILLO.

No. 33.

Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11, 11·15 P.M.)*

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 11, 1887, 10·20 P.M.*

MR. KIRBY GREEN'S telegram of 7th instant.

Italian Government have no difficulty in acceding to his suggestion. Instructions in this sense sent to Italian Minister at Tangier.

No. 34.

Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, February 11.)

(No. 45. Ext. 18.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 11, 1887.*

I HAVE reported to your Lordship this day, by telegraph, that the Italian Government, seeing no difficulty in acceding to Mr. Kirby Green's suggestions with regard to the cessions of Moorish territory, have instructed their Minister at Tangier accordingly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 35.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 111. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 6, Confidential, of January 21, 1887: *ante*, No. 5.]

No. 36.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 114. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1887*

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's telegram No. 18 of February 11, 1887: *ante*, No. 33.]

No. 37.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 17. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's telegram No. 18 of February 11, 1887: *ante*, No. 33.]

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* Repeated to Tangier (No. 4).

No. 38.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 17. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 4, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15, Confidential, of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of a Memorandum made for Signor Scovasso of the explanations given him by the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the Sultan's title to Genan Borzig, the district which M. Féraud now asserts has always formed an integral part of Algeria.

The Italian Minister assures me that, when he was being given these details, the Sultan and his Vizier did not attempt to disguise from him that M. Féraud was endeavouring to lead them to fall in with his views as to the limits of the Algerine frontier. Therefore, a corroboration by the Moorish Government of M. Féraud's assertion, that he obtained no cession of territory when at the Court, if tendered, should be accepted for what it is worth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Memorandum communicated to Mr. Kirby Green by M. Scovasso.

(Translation.)

SIDI MOHAMMED BEN ABD-EL-GEBBAR (a Shereef of the Drees dynasty), a warrior and vassal of the Sultan of Morocco, according to documents which are in the possession of the Shereefian Government, seized Genan Borzig, Aïn Safra, and other neighbouring localities in the year 956 of the Hejra. Since then, the Turkish dominion over these places has ceased, and they have been governed by Sidi Abd-el-Gebbar and his descendants. who have always remained vassals of the Sultan of Morocco.

Sidi Mohammed Ben Abd-el-Gebbar built several mosques in Figuig, and devoted a part of the produce of Genan Borzig and the other localities to these mosques, leaving the rest to his descendants. The descendants of Ben Abd-el-Gebbar have the documents in question.

Gharneet added that it is known that Hamida, who made the Delimitation Treaty with the French, took money from the latter, and left them Aïn Safra, which locality is still claimed by the descendants of Abd-el-Gebbar.

No. 39.

Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 11, 1887.*

I CALLED this morning at the Foreign Office to ask whether any instructions had been sent to the Italian Minister at Tangier with reference to the late cession of Moorish territory to France.

Count Robilant could not receive me, but I saw Count Collobiano, his Private Secretary, and communicated to him the substance of Mr. Kirby Green's telegram of the 7th instant.

At the moment of the departure of the messenger I have received a note from M. Malvano, saying that as the cession in question was a small rectification of the frontier at a great distance from the sea, General Robilant thought that the Powers interested in maintaining the *status quo* in Morocco, instead of wasting time in useless and irritating protests, should unanimously adopt a firm attitude towards the Moorish Government, in order to be certain that the present incident should not be followed by other and more dangerous concessions calculated to imperil the situation of the Empire.

General Robilant has already written yesterday in this sense to Tangier, London, Madrid, and Berlin; his views tally, therefore, with the suggestion of Mr. Kirby Green, to which the Italian Governmeut have no difficulty in acceding, and instructions in this sense have accordingly been telegraphed to the Italian Minister at Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 40.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Madrid, February* 11, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I was unable to see Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, yesterday, as his presence was required in Congress when the interpellations respecting the concessions of territory to the French in Morocco were made.

I inclose herein translation of it, together with the answer which was returned by Señor Moret.

I have an appointment with Señor Moret for to-morrow afternoon, when I shall be in a position to give your Lordship further information with regard to French movements in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Extract from "El Correo" of February 10, 1887.

(Translation.)

COUNT TORENO wished to ask whether the news relating to the rectification of the French-Algerine frontier, since the foreign newspapers of such importance as the "Times," of London, and "Le Temps," of Paris, had taken the subject up, it was a fact that M. Féraud, the French Minister in Morocco, had obtained from the Morocco Government the extension of that frontier up to the River Muluya.

Should this be the case, it would be necessary that all energy should be brought into play in order to protect the interests of Spain, which every Government should be careful to look after.

The Minister of State replied:—

"With regard to this question, nothing is settled. It is quite true that foreign newspapers of importance have taken the subject up, and that, consequently, many rumours have been prevalent, more or less worthy of foundation, in all the European capitals, and have engaged the attention of Governmental and business men; but according to what I have learnt—and I have endeavoured to obtain all the information which the importance of the matter deserves—it appears that the question has not assumed a settled form. The French Minister has opened negotiations with the Government of Morocco, some of which are of a purely commercial character, and others, as it would appear, with a view to obtaining the oasis of Figuig.

"Count Toreno is quite right in supposing that the Government is occupying itself with the consideration of such interesting questions, which, I can assure him, will meet with the same consideration as that given to it by former Governments."

No. 41.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 7, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I, yesterday, called upon my Italian and Spanish colleagues to ascertain how far they would be prepared to join me in seeking to obtain an engagement from the Sultan that he would for the future decline to consent to any alienation of Moorish territory without first consulting our respective Governments on the matter.

I submitted the question in the same form to Señor Diosdado as to Signor Scovasso. I proposed to each of them separately that we should, in face of the existing reports of territorial cessions made on the Mauro-Algerine frontier, suggest to our Governments the advisability of being instructed to call upon Mulaï Hassan to engage himself to us in such a manner as that no further French annexations should be admitted by him, except after the extent and nature of the cessions that might be demanded had been duly considered and advised by each of our Governments.

Signor Scovasso not only agreed to solicit from Rome instructions in the sense proposed by me, but wished further to ask Count di Robilant to permit him, when calling upon the Sultan, to engage himself in the way suggested, to explain to His Shereefian Majesty that, should the Italian and other Governments advise him not to give way before a demand for a territorial sacrifice, then, in such case, the Sultan might depend upon effectual protection and assistance from the Governments whose counsels he would be following.

It is perhaps needless that I should say to your Lordship that I pointed out to my Italian colleague that it was no part of our duty to furnish the Sultan with interpretations of the value of the promise we wished him to make to us.

Señor Diosdado also consented to call for instructions in accordance with my proposal. The Spanish Minister said that the step suggested was the least that could be taken, whether the asserted rectification of the Mauro-Algerine frontier had been effected or not, for he felt that the question of the maintenance of the independence and territorial integrity of the Moorish Empire was of too great importance to those countries interested in the freedom of the navigation of the Straits of Gibraltar to be allowed to remain without a guarantee of safety until a crisis had actually arrived.

Señor Diosdado called on me this morning, and read to me the draft of a despatch which he had prepared on the question for Señor Moret. In it my Spanish colleague requests the Secretary of State to authorize him to join Signor Scovasso and me in addressing identic notes, or a collective one, to the Moorish Government, calling upon it to give us a formal promise in accordance with my suggestion.

I remarked to Señor Diosdado that I had not contemplated communicating with the Moorish Government under the forms proposed by him, but as these were details which would have to be decided by our superiors, we were not now called upon to discuss them. I did this with the purpose of confirming my Spanish colleague, as I had also endeavoured to do with Signor Scovasso, in the belief that I had been acting throughout entirely on my own responsibility, and under no inspirations from your Lordship. I trust, therefore, if I should in any way have overpassed or misconstrued the wishes conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant, that I shall meet with your Lordship's indulgence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 42.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 20. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 8, 1887.

IN the course of a morning call which I had the occasion to make on my French colleague to-day, M. Féraud took an opportunity of alluding to what he termed "the malevolent reports" which had been put in circulation regarding cessions of territory obtained by him from the Sultan on the Algerian frontiers.

M. Féraud said the authors of these reports would very soon be covered with confusion, for not only would they have to face the French Government's and his formal denial that any such cessions had been effected, but also similar declarations from the side of the Sultan and his Ministers.

I observed to my French colleague that he should be more indulgent towards the public for giving credence to the rumours in question, for not every one was in possession of data regarding the Mauro-Algerine confines of sufficient value to be able to control such rumours. He himself had explained to me that all the Maps I possessed of those frontiers were defective, but others had yet to learn that Maps purporting to be issued by the Paris War Department, and to have been drawn up under the guidance of officers who had been on the Delimitation Staff of 1845, were not to be relied upon. I even admitted to M. Féraud that when I heard names of localities and Moors complaining that those localities had been quite recently annexed to Algeria, it was difficult for me to understand altogether and at once, after a glance at my Maps, which were in accordance with the complaints, that I was being subjected to a course of "malevolent reports."

In enlarging upon this matter, I purposely mentioned to the French Minister that, among other localities which had been indicated to me as having been recently engulfed into Algeria was the lake (Schott) district of Tigri. I wished to ascertain from M. Féraud whether, whilst denying the annexation of Aïn Shaïr (see my despatch No. 9 of the 25th

January), he would claim the district of Schott Tigri as being within the Algerian lines, for Aïn Shaïr may almost be said to form part of Tigri, if former French official Maps are not to be set aside altogether.

M. Féraud not only asserted to me that Schott Tigri is, and always has been, within the Algerian frontier, but I got him to repeat the assertion in the presence of Señor Diosdado, who happened to be announced as I was about to leave.

Later this afternoon I called on my Spanish colleague to request him to impress upon his memory the fact of M. Féraud's claim to me, in his presence, about Schott Tigri having always formed an integral part of Algeria.

Señor Diosdado then told me that he had paid the French Minister a visit in order to inform him that he had been instructed by the Spanish Government to ascertain from him officially, by a simple "Yes" or "No," whether the frontiers between Morocco and Algeria were still those set forth in the Demarcation Convention between France and Morocco of 1845.

M. Féraud answered, "Yes; they are the same, and absolutely no new acquisitions have been made of Moorish territory."

M. Féraud then showed Señor Diosdado a number of Maps in support of his statement, and apparently repeated to him all that he had already told me about the untrustworthiness of the Maps which are available to the general public.

Nevertheless, Señor Diosdado and I remain both firmly convinced that it is most needful that the Sultan of Morocco should not neglect taking one single step which can in the slightest degree shelter or guarantee him from French territorial encroachments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 43.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 8, 1887.*

M. FÉRAUD also denied to me this morning, during the visit which I paid him, that there was any truth in the rumour that he had succeeded in inducing the Sultan to agree to the establishment of a Franco-Moorish market on the outskirts of the frontier town of Ouchda, or that he had now or ever before made such a proposal to the Moorish Government.

The vehemence and sweeping nature of M. Féraud's denial did not, however, prevent me from recalling to mind that on a former visit to the Moorish Court he did actually bring forward a proposal for the establishment of such a market-place at Ouchda (see despatches Nos. 39 and 40, Confidential, of the 24th and 25th May, 1885), and that before starting for his last mission to the Sultan he had talked to more than one of my colleagues of the advisableness of organizing a "police à deux" at Ouchda (see despatch No. 76 of the 6th December, 1886).

Perhaps, in view of the serious state of affairs on the Continent, the French Government has ordered M. Féraud to suspend for the present the carrying out of whatever frontier arrangements he may have come to with Mulaï Hassan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 44.

Viscount Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 14, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 73 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Notice which has been published in the "Agence Havas" and other French journals respecting the reported rectification of the frontier between Algeria and Morocco.

It states that it is not true that M. Féraud, the French Minister at Tangier, obtained, during his visit to the capital, rectifications of the frontier. It goes on to say that provision has simply been made for settling claims which may eventually be made by Moorish

proprietors of fruit-trees planted at Djenieh-Bou-Bzey on ground upon which it is the intention of the military authorities in Algeria to build a "bordj," or block-house. Finally, the Notice affirms that it is untrue that the French Government has had to consider an international arrangement tending to give the guarantee of the Powers to the integrity of the territory of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Extract from the "Journal des Débats" of February 14, 1887.

"L'AGENCE HAVAS" nous communique la note suivante:—

"Quelques journaux étrangers ont prétendu que M. Féraud, Ministre de la République Française à Tanger, avait obtenu, pendant son séjour au Maroc, certaines rectifications de frontières.

"Cette allégation est inexacte. Il a simplement été pourvu au réglement éventuel d'indemnités qui pourraient être réclamées par des Marocains propriétaires d'arbres fruitiers, plantés à Djenieh-Bou-Bzey sur un terrain où les autorités militaires de l'Algérie ont l'intention d'élever un 'bordj,' ou blockhaus.

"Il est également inexact que le Gouvernement Français ait eu à se prononcer sur une combinaison internationale tendant à faire garantir par les Puissances l'intégrité du territoire Marocain."

No. 45.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 20. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, February 13, 1887.*

I SAW Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, yesterday afternoon, and we spoke of the present state of affairs in Morocco.

His Excellency told me that he had heard from Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Minister at Tangier, who had spoken point-blank to M. Féraud, his French colleague, and had asked what concessions he had obtained from the Sultan during his recent visit to Fez, and that M. Féraud had answered, "None," and that he had not asked for any. Señor Moret stated that he had heard this news with a considerable amount of incredulity.

His Excellency then communicated to me the substance of a despatch which he had received from Count Benomar, Spanish Minister at Berlin, recounting a conversation which he had held with Count Herbert Bismarck, to whom he had given a Memorandum he had drawn up for Prince Bismarck's consideration, relative to the present state of affairs in Morocco; and that he, the Spanish Minister, had been informed that the German Chancellor took a very serious view of the action of France in that country, and that the Government were prepared to adhere to the opinion they had always entertained with regard to Morocco affairs, namely, that it would be advisable to maintain the *status quo* in order to preserve the integrity and independence of the Empire.

Señor Moret added that he had received from Señor Rascon, the Spanish Minister at Rome, information of a similar description.

I informed Señor Moret that Mr. Kirby Green, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, had made a suggestion to his Italian and Spanish colleagues to obtain from the Sultan of Morocco an engagement to consent to no further alienation of Moorish territory except after having submitted demands for territorial cessions to the consideration of the Governments of Great Britain, Italy, and Spain.

Señor Moret stated that he was aware of the fact, and that Señor Diosdado had accepted the suggestion in question, but his Excellency said that he was desirous of going a step further, and he inquired of me whether it would not be possible for England, Italy, Germany, and Spain to enter into an agreement embodying their views with regard to the question of Morocco, and binding themselves reciprocally to support the integrity and independence of Morocco, and to maintain the present *status quo*. Señor Moret then stated that he felt himself a little hampered by the engagement which existed between the

Governments of Spain and France relative to the treatment of affairs in Morocco, to which reference was made in my despatch No. 11, Confidential, of the 1st instant.

Señor Moret added that, in consideration of the gravity of the situation at present, and of the alarming accounts which had reached him as to French intrigues in Morocco, he was desirous of joining the Governments of Great Britain, Italy, and Germany, should they feel severally inclined to take common action in the matter, in some form of mutual engagement which might counteract the ambitious schemes of France, and prevent their exercising a Protectorate over Morocco which could only result in the eventual disruption of the Empire.

I informed Señor Moret that I would bring the subject to your Lordship's notice, and await any instructions respecting it which your Lordship may think fit to give me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 46.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 124. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 14 of February 8, 1887 : *ante*, No. 32.]

No. 47.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 74. Very Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 1, 4, 5, 9, 11, Confidential, of January 14, 18, 21, 25, and 26 ; Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 9, 11, 14, Confidential, of January 29 and February 1 and 8; Viscount Lyons' No. 73 of February 8 ; and No. 36, Confidential, to Sir J. S. Lumley, dated February 8, 1887 : *ante*, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 21, 27, and 32.]

No 48.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 17, 4 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Madrid, February* 17, 1887, 1·30 P.M.

ITALIAN Minister has just been to see me. He informs me that Minister for Foreign Affairs had called upon him early this morning, and had told him that he did not hold to any special document being signed conjointly here by Representatives of Spain, Great Britain, and Italy, and that he would be satisfied were the text of the note which it is contemplated the Spanish, British, and Italian Representatives at Tangier are to present to the Government of Morocco should, in order to obviate all misrepresentations, be drawn up at Madrid, and after having met with the approval of the Governments concerned, should be forwarded to the Representatives of those Governments at Tangier.

The Italian Minister will communicate this information, by telegraph, to his Government.

I have not seen the Minister for Foreign Affairs since Tuesday afternoon.

I sent your Lordship another despatch on Morocco affairs by post last night.

I informed Italian Minister that I considered the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs' scheme unnecessary, as it is obvious that the Representatives of the three Powers at Tangier would not be likely to address any note to the Morocco Government on a subject of such importance without having previously received from their respective Governments the approval of the terms in which such a note was to be drawn up.

No. 49.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 75. Most Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 17, 1887.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, for your confidential information, the accompanying copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin,* in regard to the suspected designs of France on Morocco.

I have referred to this subject more than once in conversation with the German Ambassador at this Court. On the last occasion his Excellency, who had heard of the matter from another source, gave me to understand that the German Government considered that the question was one which did not concern them, and in which they would prefer to abstain from any intervention for the present.

I should be glad if your Excellency could obtain information regarding the object of Baron Testa's summons to Berlin, which was reported by Mr. Kirby Green in his despatch No. 16, Confidential, of the 2nd instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

P.S.—*February* 19. The substance of this has been telegraphed.

No. 50.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 48.) *Foreign Office, February* 17, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Viscount Lyons' No. 73 of February 8, 1887 : *ante*, No. 27.]

No. 51.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 20. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 17, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Viscount Lyons' No. 73 of February 8, 1887 : *ante*, No. 27.]

No. 52.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 14. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 17, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 14, Confidential, of February 8 ; and of Viscount Lyons' No. 73 of February 8, 1887 : *ante*, Nos. 27 and 32.]

No. 53.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 125. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 15, Confidential, of February 1, 1887 : *ante*, No. 31.]

No. 54.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 51. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 11, Confidential, of February 1 ; and of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 15, Confidential, of February 1, 1887 : *ante*, Nos. 11 and 31.]

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* Nos. 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48, and 64.

No. 55.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 15. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 11, Confidential, of February 1, 1887: *ante*, No. 11.]

No. 56.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 22. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Madrid, February* 16, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20 of the 13th instant, and to previous correspondence on the subject of Concessions to France granted in Morocco, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I saw Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, yesterday afternoon, when he informed me that he had heard from Berlin that the German Government, although fully concurring with that of Spain in considering that the *status quo* in Morocco should be maintained, were disinclined, in consequence of the strained nature of their relations with France, to take part in signing any document which might or might not be agreed to and drawn up by the Powers of Great Britain, Italy, and Spain, in order to record their views with respect to affairs in Morocco.

Señor Moret will submit to his colleagues, at a Cabinet Council, the present position of affairs of that Empire, when the question will be discussed as to whether the late Concessions made to France—which, I understand, were embodied in two notes addressed on the 15th May and the 14th November last year respectively to the French Representative in Morocco by the Grand Vizier of His Shereefian Majesty, granting the right to erect certain block-houses in the neighbourhood of Figuig—shall be deemed to constitute an infraction of the engagement that was entered into at Paris in 1884 between France and Spain, and to which I alluded in my despatch No. 11 of the 1st instant.

Should it be considered that the late Concessions do constitute such an infraction, then it will be open to the Spanish Government to denounce the engagement in question, and leave them with their hands free to contract such engagements with other friendly Powers as may be found expedient and practicable.

It strikes me that it might, perhaps, be advisable to await the result of the action which has been taken, as reported to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 3 of the 9th instant, by the Representatives of Great Britain, Italy, and Spain to obtain an engagement from the Sultan to consent to no further alienation of Moorish territory except after having submitted demands for territorial cessions to the consideration of the Governments of Great Britain, Italy, and Spain.

Should the Sultan of Morocco agree to enter into such an engagement, the object at present in view, namely, that of checking ambitious designs on the part of France, would be attained; whereas, on the other hand, should the Sultan refuse to be bound by such an engagement, then it will be time enough to take into consideration other means of securing the same object.

I should state, in conclusion, that Señor Moret appears exceedingly desirous that some document should be subscribed to by his Government, together with those of Great Britain and Italy, recording their joint views on the Morocco question. He is probably afraid to take any decided action with regard to France without having previously assured himself by means other than verbal of the moral support of the other two Powers most closely interested in preserving the integrity and independence of the Empire of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 57.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1887, 3·45 P.M.

[Repeats Sir C. Ford's telegram of 17th February.]

Her Majesty's Government think that Representatives at Tangier would probably, from local knowledge and experience, be able to suggest the best form of note.

Her Majesty's Government are prepared, if agreeable to other two Governments, to instruct Mr. Kirby Green to concert with his colleagues for that purpose.

Ascertain view of Italian Government.

No. 58.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 52. Confidential. Ext. 27.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1887.

WITH reference to the telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid of the 17th instant, which I repeated to your Excellency to-day, in regard to the action to be taken by Great Britain, Italy, and Spain in Morocco, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Representatives at Tangier of the three Powers would be in the most favourable position, from their local knowledge and experience, to suggest the best form of note to be addressed to the Moorish Government.

Her Majesty's Government are willing, if such a course is agreeable to the Governments of Italy and Spain, to instruct Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier to concert with his Italian and Spanish colleagues in that capital for the purpose.

I have to request your Excellency to ascertain the views of the Italian Government on this point.

The substance of the foregoing has this day been communicated to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 59.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 127. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1887.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of further despatches, as marked in the margin,* in regard to French designs on Morocco.

I have to request your Excellency to procure and to forward to me two copies of the best Maps obtainable in France showing the Franco-Moorish frontier, with the position of the various places referred to in Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 20, Confidential, of the 8th instant, and in recent correspondence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Nos. 38, 39, 42, and 45.

No. 60.

Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 20, 3 P.M.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 20, 1887, 1·30 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 27 of 19th instant.

Italian Government will instruct their Minister at Tangier, to-day, to concert with his colleagues of England and Spain bent of collective note to be presented to Government of Morocco.

No. 61.

Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, February 20.)

(No. 54. Ext. 21.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 20, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, referring to your telegram of yesterday marked No. 27, that the Italian Minister at Tangier will this day be instructed by his Government to concert the text of a collective note, to be presented to the Government of Morocco, with his Spanish and English colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 62.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 23. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 10, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, in accordance with your Lordship's telegraphic instructions under yesterday's date, I to-day informed my Spanish and Italian colleagues that I had received your Lordship's sanction to my uniting with them in endeavouring to obtain the Sultan's promise to make no further territorial cessions without first consulting our respective Governments.

I also told Señor Diosdado that I had reason to believe that the Spanish Government would be informed by Sir Clare Ford that it might depend on the moral support of Her Majesty's Government in any efforts it might make to secure the independence and integrity of this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 63.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 10, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of an article in yesterday's issue of "Le Réveil du Maroc," the reputed organ of the French Legation in this place.

Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Minister, is disposed to believe that this article has been published solely for the purpose of bringing in the paragraph on the arrangement said to have been recently passed between the Sultan and M. Féraud as to the eventual extension of the Algerian frontier to the banks of the River Moulouya. Señor Diosdado thinks that M. Féraud has not only thus wished to give notice that the smallest increase of even the fortified lines of the Spanish possessions may bring about a French advance, but has also thereby attempted to draw off attention from the territorial encroachments in the direction of Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Extract from the "Réveil du Maroc" of February 9, 1887.

L'ALARME.—Dans son dernier numéro, correspondant au 6 courant, notre confrère local "l'Al-moghreb Al aksa," sonne l'alarme. S'appuyant sur les rumeurs d'une rectification de frontières négociée entre le Ministre de France et le Sultan à la dernière Ambassade, d'une expédition projetée par le Sultan à Oudjda, rumeurs que notre confrère met en corrélation avec l'appel télégraphique à Berlin du Ministre d'Allemagne au Maroc, "l'Al-moghreb" proteste contre le démembrement du territoire Marocain, et demande à toutes les nations qui ont des intérêts au Maroc de s'opposer à la cession d'un pied de terrain à qui que ce soit.

Ces rumeurs plus ou moins autorisées ne justifient guère l'alarme de notre confrère. Partisans comme nous sommes de l'intégrité territoriale du Maroc nous ne verrions pas sans plaisir mettre fin à l'interminable question de la délimitation des frontières Algériennes. Rien cependant ne justifie la croyance de ce qu'une solution heureuse soit intervenue dans cette affaire à la dernière Ambassade de M. Féraud, quoique nous déplorions avec notre confrère le mystère dont sont entourés les actes officiels des Représentants étrangers et les réunions diplomatiques à Tanger, ainsi que nous l'avons fait voir dans notre dernier numéro.

Il y a toutefois une remeur persistante qui circule à l'effet que le Ministre de France aurait passé avec le Sultan une Convention aux termes de laquelle il a été arrêté que si le Maroc, à quelque époque future, venait à faire une cession territoriale à quelque Puissance que ce soit, la France aurait alors les frontières Algériennes poussées jusqu'au Moulouya. Si cela est, il y a tout lieu de croire la solution plus éloignée que jamais, et par conséquent, les inquiétudes sans fondement aucun.

D'autre part, on prétend que le Ministre de France aurait influé auprès du Sultan pour le maintien d'Abdelmaleck dans son poste de Gouverneur des régions d'Oudjda, avec les mêmes pouvoirs que ceux de Sid Torres à Tanger. Cette nouvelle, quoique manquant de confirmation, donnerait lieu à supposer que le Ministre de France aurait assumé une responsabilité incompatible avec la diplomatie, au cas où les troubles dans les régions d'Oudjda, calmés depuis le départ d'Abdelmaleck, viendraient à se reproduire au retour de sa présence, La France serait-elle alors en droit de se plaindre des agissements du fonctionnaire nommé par le Sultan sur la recommandation de son Ministre ? Ce droit serait très contestable ; car, bien que le Souverain du pays soit censé avoir la main libre, sa position ne lui permet pas toujours d'encourir la responsabilité de s'opposer à toute demande d'un Représentant de Puissance voisine, cette demande fût-elle même officieuse.

Devant de pareilles considérations, il nous est difficile de croire que M. Féraud manquerait de tact au point de compromettre la situation pour favoriser l'imposition d'un fonctionnaire dont les agissements avaient créé des troubles dans les régions limitrophes, ce fonctionnaire fût-il même l'ami le plus dévoué de la France, qualité que nous sommes loin de reconnaître à Sid Abdelmaleck, étant donné sa position officielle ainsi que ses antécédents.

No. 64.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 11, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that M. Féraud left this morning for Paris.

My colleague told me, when taking leave of me, that it is customary for the French Minister to proceed to France after every visit to the Moorish Court, in order to give verbal explanation thereon to the Secretary of State. M. Féraud added that he was about to fulfil a mere formality, and that he would probably be back in Tangier twenty days hence.

The Shereef of Wazan and his eldest son also left this yesterday. Though M. Féraud explained this departure as being necessitated by the Shereef's health, which requires recourse being had to some mineral baths in Algeria, persons as much in the Shereef's confidence as the French Minister assert that he will continue his journey from Algiers to

Paris, where he hopes to obtain a clear definition of his semi-independent position, and the support of his claims to protect all his religious adherents in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 65.

Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 51. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 17, 1887.*

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 36, Confidential, of the 8th instant, I took immediate steps for removing the misapprehension which appears to have arisen with regard to Sir J. Drummond Hay's views as to the best means of preserving the independence of Morocco, with special reference to a despatch of Count Robilant, addressed to M. Scovasso, relating a conversation he had with Sir J. Drummond Hay in my presence.

I could not see Count Robilant, who was called away to the Palace on questions connected with the Ministerial crisis; but I saw M. Malvano, who is charged with the duty of drawing up the political despatches, and I read to him Mr. Kirby Green's No. 6, Confidential, of the 21st January last, in which he takes exception to the statement Sir J. Drummond Hay is reported to have made, to the effect "that the maintenance of the Moorish *status quo* would be impossible the moment an attempt was made to introduce reforms in the Shereefian Government," &c. At this point M. Malvano stopped me, saying it was evident M. Scovasso had been in error in translating Count Robilant's words, which bore a totally different signification.

He then sent for the volume containing the copies of Count Robilant's despatches, and read to me the passage referred to by Mr. Kirby Green, from which, as he said, it was evident that Count Robilant never intended to put into Sir J. Drummond Hay's mouth an attack upon the work of civilization in Morocco, but to expose those false endeavours which serve as a pretext for designs of a totally different character.

On my requesting to be furnished with an extract from that despatch, with the paragraph in question, M. Malvano said he would ask Count Robilant's leave to do so, and he has now sent me the extract in question, translation of which is herewith inclosed.

A despatch, pointing out the error into which M. Scovasso has fallen, will be addressed to him; and as Sir J. Drummond Hay has explained privately to M. Scovasso what he said to Count Robilant, all misapprehension on the subject will now be removed.

In your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch I am further directed to show the instruction it contains to Sir J. Drummond Hay, as well as Mr. Kirby Green's despatch. This I have done, and I have also thought it right to communicate to him my despatch No. 1, Africa, Confidential, of the 11th January last, describing his conversation with Count Robilant, which he considered to be a correct account of that interview.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Count Robilant to M. Scovasso.

(Translation.)
(Extract.)

SIR J. D. HAY concluded his statement by informing me that during the forty years of his residence in Morocco he had convinced himself that the only means of preventing this dangerous and persistent action of France lay in not giving shocks to the Government of Morocco under the pretext of wishing to civilize it. Because it must be borne in mind that, although said Government is really execrable, for that very reason an injudicious push would involve its ruin to the exclusive advantage of France, who would profit by the opportunity to trumpet abroad the humane necessity of substituting for it a state of things more in harmony with the requirements of modern civilization—fine words, these, which the French always know how to employ to mask their encroachments.

No. 66.

Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 60. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 19, 1887.*

I SAID to Count Bismarck to-day that I had no instructions to speak to him on the subject, but that I was anxious to know whether he took any interest in Morocco, and the recent action of the French Minister there.

He replied that Count Benomar, the Spanish Envoy at this Court, had spoken to him at length about it, and he, Count Bismarck, had disclaimed having interest in the Mediterranean. He had, however, recommended that Spain should endeavour to come to an understanding with England and Italy with regard to the question. This seemed to him the natural course to pursue, as they were the Powers chiefly interested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 67.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 18.) *Foreign Office, February 21, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 46 of February 11, 1887: *ante*, No. 39.]

No. 68.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Madrid, February 18, 1887.*

THE affairs of Morocco having formed the subject of discussion in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies, I have the honour to inclose herein an extract in English of the observations which were made on the occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Extract from the "Gaceta de Madrid."

AT the sitting held in the Congress of Deputies on Thursday, February 10, 1887,

Count de Toreno inquired of the Secretary of State what truth there was in the reports as to concessions made to France in Morocco.

Señor Moret replied that many reports on the subject were in circulation, but that as far as he knew, and he testified to the zeal and activity of the Spanish Representative in Tangier, there was nothing yet which could be said to be positively settled or which would justify the Spanish Government in making any protest. The question of Morocco is one which has nothing to do with party politics in Spain, and the present Spanish Government propose to follow the line of policy which has already been traced by previous Administrations, that is to say, that any rectification of the frontiers of Algeria or any occupation of Morocco territory cannot be accomplished without the participation ("intervencion") of Spain, and with respect to which Spain has not only the right to express her opinion, but also to learn that of the other Powers respecting it, and to exercise in matter the rights which have been accorded to it by the French Government, which Government has by stipulations, which do not date from to-day, and which have never been denounced, and the validity of which cannot be doubted, entered into an engagement to proceed in Morocco hand in hand with Spain.

It is obvious that such being the case, the Spanish Government requires to take no other action, nor does she desire to pursue any other course than that of assuring

herself directly and inquiring of the French Government as to what foundation may exist for the reports in question, and she has a perfect right to do so in view of the engagement above referred to, and availing myself of that right, I spoke a few days ago on the subject to the present French Ambassador, as indeed I did on the previous occasion to the former French Ambassador in Madrid.

I am therefore in a position to assure the Chamber that nothing which could act prejudicially to Spanish interests will occur, and that the Government is ready to employ all the means in its power to carry out the old traditional policy of Spain in Morocco, which consists in regarding the Morocco question, or rather the integrity and independence of that Empire, as one entirely and eminently national in its character.

Count de Toreno thanks Señor Moret for his explanation, and observes that, although the reported concessions to France may not as yet have assumed a concrete form, there must be something in them, and he is glad to hear that the Spanish Government are on the *qui vive* with respect to this important question.

Señor Moret replied that, as regarded the rectification of the Algerian frontier, he could not enter into details; but he could say so much, that it is not a question at present of the frontier on the banks of the River Muluya. As far as he was in a position to judge, the question referred to territory in the vicinity of an oasis, known by the name of Jigheey, a locality concerning which, as many persons know who are now listening to me, there was a question respecting which the rights of Spain were very clearly pronounced by former Secretaries of State in terms which I entirely approve of and adopt.

I quite approve, too, of the Members of this House addressing to me any questions relative to Morocco, for the Government is desirous of keeping itself in touch with the Chamber as regards a question which primes all others, inasmuch as it is a purely national one.

Count de Toreno again thanks the Minister of State, and assures him that, in the question of Morocco, he will always find the Deputies of the Chamber, of whatever party, ready to give unconditionally their best support to him.

At the sitting of the Congress of Deputies held on Tuesday, the 15th February, 1887, another statement relative to the affairs of Morocco was made by—

Señor Moret, who said he had received the most complete assurances from the French Government that the reports respecting an extension of the Algerian frontier in Morocco had no foundation whatever, and that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs had declared to the Spanish Ambassador in Paris that France had not entertained, nor did entertain, any intentions of obtaining augmentation of territory on the coasts of Morocco. Señor Moret availed himself of this opportunity of correcting a report which had appeared in the newspapers, and which materially affected Spanish trade. It had been said that the coasting trade would be allowed in the Empire of Morocco, but from information which he had received from the Spanish Minister in Tangier, it appeared that it was nothing of the sort, and that if it had been true the Government would have heard of it. As I am now in possession of some information on the subject, I am enabled to state that what has happened is this: that the Sultan of Morocco has proposed that, in the event of there being a scarcity of corn in any one port of Morocco, and a superabundance of that article in another port, as soon as the Sultan is made aware of the fact, he will allow, at the period following the harvest, and when the threshing of the corn has taken place, the exportation of corn from one port to another during a period of three months, without, however, such a permission being used as a precedent, but only as an offer the accomplishment of which will depend upon the Sultan's judgment, having regard to the necessities of the Empire.

Count de Toreno thanked the Minister for the tranquillizing assurances he had uttered, and expressed the hope that any coasting trade which might be allowed would be enjoyed equally by all the flags of different nations.

No. 69.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1887, 1 P.M.

YOUR telegram of 17th February.

I approve your language to Italian Minister.

Her Majesty's Government think that Representatives of England, Spain, and Italy at Tangier would probably, from local knowledge and experience, be able to suggest best form of note.

Instructions in this sense were to be sent on 20th to Italian Minister at Tangier.

Her Majesty's Government hope that this course will be agreeable to Spanish Government. If so, Mr. Kirby Green will be instructed to concert with Ministers of Spain and Italy for that purpose.

No. 70.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 24. Confidential. Ext. 4.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1887.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches Nos. 20, Confidential, and 22, Confidential, of the 13th and 16th instant respectively, and your telegram of the 17th instant in regard to Morocco.

I have now to state to you that Her Majesty's Government concur in your view that it is desirable to await the result of the proposed joint action of the British, Italian, and Spanish Representatives at Tangier before taking any further step, such as a formal engagement between any of the Powers to maintain the integrity of Morocco; and they consider that the Representatives of the three Powers at Tangier would probably, from local knowledge and experience, be in the most favourable position for suggesting the best form of note to be addressed to the Moorish Government.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome reported that instructions in that sense were to be sent on the 20th instant to the Italian Minister at Tangier, and Her Majesty's Government trust that this course will be agreeable to the Spanish Government. Should it be so, Mr. Kirby Green will be instructed to concert with his colleagues of Spain and Italy for that purpose.

I have at the same time to convey to you my approval of the language which you used to your Italian colleague, as reported in your telegram of the 17th instant.

The substance of the foregoing was this day communicated to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 71.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Madrid, February* 23, 1887, 4·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 4 of 20th instant.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has been laid up with cold, but he has just written to me to say on Monday last he sent instructions by telegraph to Spanish Minister at Tangier to act as your Lordship proposes, and in accordance with instructions sent to his colleagues.

No. 72.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 144.) *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 26 of February 11; ditto, Nos. 16, 18, and 21, Confidential, of February 2, 7, and 8; and Sir Clare Ford's No. 17 of February 11, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 40, 41, 43, and 65.]

No. 73.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green, No. 6, Telegraphic, February 24, 1887.

[For Extender, see No. 74.]

No. 74.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 21. Ext.)

Foreign Office, February 24, 1887.

Sir,

I REPEATED to you a telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, in which Sir Clare Ford reports that he has been informed that the Spanish Minister at Tangier has been instructed to act with the Italian Minister and with yourself in regard to the maintenance of the integrity of the Moorish Empire.

I have therefore to request you to prepare, in concert with your colleagues of Italy and Spain, an identic note which should be previously submitted to your respective Governments before its presentation to the Moorish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 75.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 23. Most Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 24, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 15, Confidential, of February 1; ditto, No. 17, Confidential, February 4; ditto, No. 18, Confidential, February 7; ditto, Nos. 20 and 21, Confidential, February 8; ditto, No. 26, February 11; Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 46, Confidential, of February 11; and Viscount Lyons' No. 83, Confidential, of February 14, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 31, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, and 64.]

No. 76.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 26. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 25, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 24 of February 10; and Sir E. Malet's No. 60 of February 19, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 63 and 66.]

No. 77.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 19. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 25, 1887.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 23, Confidential, of the 10th instant, reporting your having informed your Italian and Spanish colleagues that you had

received the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to co-operating with them in their efforts to restrain the Sultan of Morocco from making any further territorial cessions without first consulting Great Britain, Italy, and Spain.

I have to convey to you my approval of your proceedings in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 78.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 20. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 25, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 17 of February 11; ditto, No. 20, Confidential, February 13; Sir E. Malet's No. 60 of February 19; and Viscount Lyons' No. 83 of February 14, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 40, 44, 45, and 66.]

No. 79.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 58. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 25, 1887.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 51, Confidential, of the 17th instant, and I have to express the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the removal of the misapprehension which had occurred in connection with the statement attributed to Sir J. Drummond Hay as to the means best calculated to safeguard the independence of the Empire of Morocco.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 80.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 66. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 25, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 14, Confidential, of February 8; ditto, No. 17, February 11; ditto, No. 20, Confidential, February 13; Sir E. Malet's No. 60 of February 19; Viscount Lyons' No. 83 of February 14; Mr. Kirby Green's No. 17, Confidential, February 4; ditto, No. 18, Confidential, February 7; ditto, Nos. 20 and 21, Confidential, February 8; ditto, No. 24, February 10; and ditto, No. 26, February 11, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 32, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 63, 64, and 66.]

No. 81.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 152. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 26, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 24 of February 10; and Sir E. Malet's No. 60, Confidential, of February 19, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 63 and 66.]

No. 82.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

Foreign Office, February 26, 1887.

(No. 91.)

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 24 of February 10, 1887: *ante*, No. 63.]

No. 83.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 27. Confidential.)

Tangier, February 23, 1887.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that my Italian and Spanish colleagues informed me the day before yesterday that they had received telegraphic instructions from their Governments to draw up, together with me, the draft of the collective note which it was proposed we should address to the Moorish Government, for the purpose of obtaining an engagement from the Sultan that for the future no territorial cessions would be made except after consultation with our respective Governments.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 5 of yesterday's date permits me to submit herewith, for your Lordship's consideration, the draft of the collective note which, in expectation of your Lordship's authorization, I had consented to prepare, in concert with Señor Diosdado and Signor Scovasso.

My colleagues and I have thought it best not to load the note with explanations as to its object and advantages, for they ought to be self-evident to the Sultan and his Ministers.

If unexpected hesitation should arise in the acceptance of our advice, I can press it verbally upon the Sultan's serious attention during my approaching visit to the Moorish Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Draft of Collective Note to be addressed by the British, Italian, and Spanish Ministers to Cid Emfadl Gharneet.

(Après compliments.)

LES Soussignés, Représentants de l'Espagne, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de l'Italie, viennent de recevoir de leurs Gouvernements respectifs l'ordre de porter à la connaissance de Sa Majesté Chérifienne que le maintien de l'indépendance et de l'intégrité territoriale de l'Empire Marocain est l'objet de leur vive sollicitude.

Les dits Gouvernements sont convaincus que le Sultan ne saurait méconnaître l'avantage que Sa Majesté aurait à s'assurer leur *appui* pour arriver à ce but. Par conséquent, les Soussignés, agissant d'après les instructions qu'ils ont reçues. ont l'honneur de demander, par l'entremise de votre Excellence, que Sa Majesté s'engage formellement, vis-à-vis de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, à ne consentir dorénavant à aucune cession de territoire, ni à aucun arrangement territorial quelconque, sans s'être préalablement concerté avec les trois Gouvernements amis.

Les Soussignés prient votre Excellence de vouloir bien leur transmettre, dans le plus bref délai possible, la réponse de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, afin qu'ils puissent en référer à leurs Gouvernements.

No. 84.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 1, 4·50 P.M.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, March 1, 1887, 2·15 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me last night that he had received, and approved by Cabinet, the draft of the collective note prepared at Tangier.

No. 85.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 1, 5 P.M.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, March 1, 1887, 3·10 P.M.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27 of 23rd ultimo, Spanish Minister has already received authorization to sign collective note. Request your Lordship's authority to do so too if draft is approved of.

No. 86.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received by telegraph, March* 1.)

(No. 31. Ext. 4.)

Tangier, March 1, 1887.

My Lord,

SEÑOR DIOSDADO, the Spanish Minister, having already received the authorization from Madrid to sign the collective note, of which I had the honour to submit the draft to your Lordship's consideration in my despatch No. 27 of the 27th ultimo, I venture to respectfully suggest that, if the proposed note meets with your Lordship's approval, I also should be telegraphically authorized to sign it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 87.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 22.)

Foreign Office, March 1, 1887.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT, for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, inclosing an abstract, in English, of a discussion in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies upon the affairs of Morocco;* and I have to request you to furnish me with a Report upon the coasting trade, to which reference is made therein.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 88.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 1, 9 P.M.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, March 1, 1887, 6·40 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 12, Confidential, of the 8th ultimo.

I saw Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon, and explained misapprehension as to Sir J. Hay's language to Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs. Minister for Foreign Affairs was very glad to hear it, as he said he never could have supposed British policy in Morocco could be such as had been represented.

Spain will give most cordial support to Great Britain in urging the Moorish Government to adopt a policy of reform and administrative improvement.

No. 89.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 30.)

Madrid, February 27, 1887.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a private note I received last evening from Señor Agüera, the Under-Secretary of State, together with translation of a document which formed the inclosure to that note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

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* No. 68.

Inclosure 1 in No. 89.

Señor Agüera to Sir Clare Ford.

Mon cher Ami, *Ministro de Estado, le 26 Février*, 1887.

M. MORET me charge de vous remettre la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche que nous venons de recevoir de Larache,* quoique nous n'ajoutons pas grand foi à ses nouvelles.

Tout à vous,

(Signé) J. S. AGÜERA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 89.

Letter received from Larache.

(Translation.)

A MOOR, who this very evening arrived from Morocco, has assured me that it is known there that the French have positively taken possession of Figuey and Ain Shair. Aguelaslabilcas sent in all haste their Commissioners to the Sultan informing him of this irruption, and that the invaders intended fortifying certain points of the territory where the inhabitants were not friendly to them.

The Sultan informed the Commissioners that he would shortly call together his army and hasten its departure for Fez and Ushda, whence he thought of sending it to the occupied frontier. The time fixed in Morocco for the departure of the Sultan was about the middle of March, and rumours were afloat relative to important movements of troops in the Province of Oran.

No. 90.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.†

(No. 155. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 2, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 22, Confidential, of February 16; and ditto, No. 5, Telegraphic, of March 1, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 56 and 88.]

No. 91.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 24. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 2, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 22, Confidential, of February 16, 1887: *ante*, No. 56.]

No. 92.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 30. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 24, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that whilst I was calling yesterday on my German colleague, M. von Saldern, he mentioned to me that he had heard from Berlin that the Spanish Representative there had depicted under very serious colours the recent French encroachments on Moorish territory. Count Benomar had actually stated that these encroachments, if continued, might result in a rupture between France and Spain.

M. von Saldern added that, under these circumstances, the German Government had thought it prudent to instruct him to explain to those of his colleagues whose countries might have special interests in Morocco, that whilst the German Government sympathized with all efforts for maintaining a political equilibrium in these regions, it had ever to bear in mind that it should never unnecessarily touch the very natural

* Larache, a port in the west of Morocco, to the south of Tangier.

† Also to Sir J. S. Lumley (No. 68, Confidential), and Sir E. Malet (No. 99, Confidential).

susceptibilities of the French. Therefore, M. von Saldern was directed to observe, as long as friendly relations existed between France and Germany, the greatest reserve in his political conduct here.

I stated to M. von Saldern, in a friendly way, that I quite understood the motives of the German Government, and that I should never have expected that it could have any other policy than to encourage the French Government to increase its responsibilities and military engagements in Northern Africa. In fact, I thought it would be rather advantageous for those who are interested in supporting the Sultan of Morocco that the French Government should realize with promptitude the benevolent attitude of Germany with regard to its aspirations in this direction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 93.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.**

(No. 162. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 5*, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 23, Confidential, of February 10; Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 51, Confidential, of February 17; and Sir Clare Ford's No. 23 of February 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 62, 65, and 68.]

No. 94.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 73. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 5*, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 23, Confidential, of February 10; and of Sir Clare Ford's No. 23 of February 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 62 and 68.]

No. 95.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 31. Confidential) *Foreign Office, March 5*, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 23, Confidential, of February 10; and of Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 51, Confidential, of February 17, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 62 and 65.]

No. 96.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 26. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 5*, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 51, Confidential, of February 17, 1887: *ante*, No. 65.]

No. 97.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.†

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 7, 1887, 5·15 P.M.

YOUR No. 27.

HER Majesty's Government approve collective note provided "bons offices" are substituted for "appui" in second paragraph.

Ask Spanish and Italian Ministers to apply for concurrence of their Governments.

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* Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 106, Confidential).

† Also to Sir J. S. Lumley (No. 35), and to Sir C. Ford (No. 5).

No. 98.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 28. Ext. 7.)

Foreign Office, March 7, 1887.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 27 of the 23rd ultimo, submitting the draft of a collective note to the Moorish Government, urging the Sultan to engage to make no territorial cessions in future without previous consultation with the Governments of Great Britain and Spain.

I have to state to you that the terms of the note in question meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, provided that the words "bons offices" are substituted for "appui" in the second paragraph; and I have to request that you will ask your Spanish and Italian colleagues to apply for the concurrence of their respective Governments in the suggested alterations.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the words proposed to be substituted for "appui" will more accurately express the meaning which it is desirable to convey to the Moorish Government.

The substance of the foregoing has been communicated to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 99.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, March 8, 1887, 5·45 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 5.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has no objection to substitute words "bons offices" for "appui" in second paragraph of note.

Spanish Minister at Tangier will be so informed when he applies.

No. 100.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 32. Confidential.)

Madrid, March 1, 1887.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 11, Very Confidential, of the 5th ultimo, which reached me yesterday by Foreign Office messenger, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that at an interview I held this afternoon with Señor Moret, the Spanish Secretary of State, I assured his Excellency of the moral support of Her Majesty's Government in any efforts the Spanish Government may make to secure the ndependence and integrity of the Sultan's dominions.

Señor Moret expresses his gratification at hearing this assurance.

I also informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government considered that it would be advisable for the Spanish Government to consult with that of Italy in this matter, to which Señor Moret entirely agreed.

I should mention to your Lordship that I had already spoken to Señor Moret in this sense on the 5th ultimo, when I had received your Lordship's telegram of that date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 101.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 33. Confidential.)

Madrid, March 1, 1887.

My Lord,

ACTING on the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 12 of the 8th ultimo, marked Confidential, which reached me yesterday in a despatch bag by

Mr. Greville, I called on the Minister of State this afternoon, and informed him of the misapprehension which had taken place as to certain expressions of Sir John Hay at an interview he held at Rome on the 10th January with Count Robilant, and which expressions conveyed the idea that, in his opinion, the policy to adopt in Morocco was to discountenance any attempts at reform and administrative improvement, whereas in reality Sir John Hay's opinions were in an exactly contrary direction, and his views were shared by Her Majesty's Government.

Señor Moret appeared much gratified at hearing this explanation, and he informed me that he had been considerably puzzled by a report which he had recently received from Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Minister at Tangier, who had evidently written to him in consequence of what he had heard from Signor Scovasso, his Italian colleague, who had no doubt communicated to him the contents of the despatch which he had received from Count Robilant, giving an account of the interview his Excellency had held with Sir John Hay.

Señor Moret said he could not believe what he had read, as it was so contrary to the spirit and traditions of British policy. England, he said, advocated reforms in Turkey, why not then in Morocco?

Finding Señor Moret in such an excellent disposition, I expressed the hope that the Spanish Representative at Tangier might receive instructions to co-operate with his British colleague in urging the Moorish Government to adopt a policy which would be the best adapted for securing the independence of the Moorish Empire; and his Excellency was good enough to assure me in warm terms that Her Majesty's Government could confidently rely upon such co-operation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 102.

Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 9, 1·25 P.M.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.)

Rome, March 9, 1887, 12·50 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 35.

Italian Government have telegraphed to Italian Minister at Tangier to substitute the words "bons offices" for the word "appui" in the collective note to be addressed to Moorish Government.

No. 103.

Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received by telegraph, March* 9.)

(No. 70. Ext. 25.)

Rome, March 9, 1887.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 35 of the 7th instant, I learn that the Italian Government have instructed their Representative at Tangier to replace the word "appui" by the expression "bons offices" in the collective note about to be presented to the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 104.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 32. Confidential.)

Tangier, March 2, 1887.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of the reply received by me from Cid Emfadl Gharneet to the inquiry I had addressed, as reported in No. 9 of the 25th January last, to his Excellency, on the subject of the rumoured territorial cessions by his Shereefian Majesty to France on the Algerian frontier.

Your Lordship will observe that, in accordance with the expectation expressed by me in my despatch No. 17 of the 4th ultimo, Cid Emfadl Gharneet attempts to leave me under the impression that no territorial cessions have been made by the Sultan, though his Excellency is careful not to deny the fact in a categorical manner.

My Spanish and Italian colleagues, to whom I have communicated the substance of the Moorish Minister's reply, agree with me in believing that, not only has the Sultan divested himself of some districts which His Majesty considered to have belonged hitherto to Morocco, but that he has also allowed M. Féraud to obtain more influence over him than is quite desirable for the security of his Empire.

I therefore, at the solicitation of Señor Diosdado, requested that I might be authorized by your Lordship, by telegraph, to sign the collective note, should it meet with your Lordship's approval. The Spanish Minister is most anxious that no time should be lost in endeavouring to recall the Sultan from a course which can only lead to the establishment of a French Protectorate; and Señor Diosdado is convinced that this can be best effected by at once submitting to His Shereefian Majesty's consideration, with judicious accompanying explanations, the proposed collective note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Cid Emfadl Gharneet to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Morocco, February* 6, 1887.

WE have received your letter, in which you inform us that, after the return of the French Minister from the Court, there were rumours at Tangier to the effect that the Sultan had ceded a considerable tract of country to France; you also say that, if such is the case, we, by not apprising the friendly Governments of the fact, have infringed the engagement we had entered into with them to keep them informed on matters of importance.

We have communicated your letter to our Lord and Master, and his Majesty, after having taken what you say into consideration, has commanded me to answer you that your statement concerning the promise which the Shereefian Government had made to the friendly Powers is perfectly correct, and that His Majesty continues to observe it towards Great Britain as well as towards the other friendly Governments. I have to thank you, in the name of the Sultan, for this and for your strict observance of the Treaties of your Government, which are based upon its friendship to this country. However, no such thing as what you mention has taken place. The truth is as follows:—The French claimed the district known as Genan Borzig, and adduced testimony to show that it belonged to the Eastern territory; and we inquired into the matter, endeavouring to obtain evidence from other quarters, but could not arrive at the truth, because people are either on the one side or the other; the one say it belonged to the French, and the others say it belonged to the Empire of Morocco. We therefore replied to the French Minister, that if it was proved that it belonged to French territory, the French should take possession of it, in consideration of the perfect friendship and alliance which exists at the present day between us and France, so much so that the claims they have upon the subjects of His Shereefian Majesty were presented in a friendly manner, and in an accommodating spirit, as befits friends. The cases where grievances exist between the subjects of the two nations, even where the Emperor's subjects are in the wrong, the French Government restrains its subjects from exacting justice for themselves until the Moorish Government has been informed, and dispenses justice between the parties. An instance of this was the attack and robbery perpetrated by the Moorish tribe of Doowi Menia on the Algerian tribe of Sheabna. The latter wished to pursue the Doowi Menia, and recover what had been stolen from them; but the French Government prevented them from doing so, and referred the matter to His Shereefian Majesty, who sent the Kaid Boo Azza Eshsherifi to inquire into the rights of the case. He is now still executing justice on them. Peace.

(Signed) EMFADL GHARNEET.

No. 105.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 81. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1887.

[Transmits copies of No. 21 to Mr. Kirby Green of February 24; and of Sir Clare Ford's No. 30 of February 27, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 74 and 89.]

No. 106.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 29. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 7 (Telegraphic), of March 8; and Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 25 (Telegraphic), of March 9, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 99 and 102.]

No. 107.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12, 3 P.M.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tangier, March* 12, 1887, 2·39 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 7th instant.

Collective note in desired form signed and forwarded to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 108.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 177.) *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1887.

[Transmits copies of No. 21 to Mr. Kirby Green of February 24; and Sir Clare Ford's No. 30 of February 27, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 74 and 89.]

No. 109.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 35. Confidential.) *Tangier, March* 6, 1887.

My Lord,

IN confirmation of the belief expressed by me in my despatch No. 32, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, that, notwithstanding the attempts of the Moorish Government to leave in doubt the question whether any territorial cessions have or have not been made by the Sultan on the Algerian frontier, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received renewed assurances from a person who is in daily contact with the Moorish Court, that such cessions were most certainly agreed to by the Sultan.

My informant adds that deputations from the ceded district of Genan Borzig and from Figuig have arrived at the Court to protest against the transfer of any of their territory to France, and have added that they will oppose to the utmost the advance of French troops, regardless of the arrangements which the Sultan may have come to with the French Minister. The Sultan and his counsellors are considerably perplexed in what manner to meet the determined attitude assumed by the inhabitants of the before-named localities, and, in the meantime, the deputations are being detained, on various pleas, at the Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 110

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 38.)

My Lord, *Madrid, March* 9, 1887.

I OBSERVE in the French newspaper "Le Temps" of yesterday's date the inclosed Article respecting affairs in Morocco, and as your Lordship would no doubt like to see the article which is referred to therein, and which was published in the "Imparcial" of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy and précis of it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Précis of Article in "El Imparcial" of March 5, 1887.

"EL IMPARCIAL" of the 5th instant transcribes a letter from Tangier, dated the 25th February last, published in "La Andalucia," of Seville, and an article published also in that paper with reference to the affairs of Morocco, which are interesting.

The correspondent of "La Andalucia" states that M. Féraud, in his mission to Muley El Hassan, has not obtained the advantages with which the foreign press have credited him.

No frontiers have been rectified, and no Treaty of Commerce has been agreed to.

The French Minister has merely considered the demands brought forward by certain subjects of Morocco to be indemnified for the value of fruit trees which have been cut down in Djnieh-Bou-Breg, were the Algerian military authorities intend to construct a "bong" or "fort."

"The editor of "La Andalucia" states that the news which he had received by telegraph were confirmed, that through the good offices of M. Féraud, Malek-Ben-Haslinne is retained at his post as Governor of Hehydu, though the Sultan was anxious to dismiss him in compliance with the request of the subjects under his jurisdiction, who hate him. Thus the Sultan has complied with M. Féraud's request in order to please the French nation.

It is also stated that the French troops have also occupied the Figuig oasis, and several other places towards the slopes of the Atlas, where the limits of the Empire of Morocco are not clearly defined. If this is so, it appears that the object of the French is to take possession of Fafilet, and from thence to occupy the water-shed of the Draa towards the Atlantic.

When this takes place the Empire of Morocco will be surrounded by a series of French military posts, which will commence at Nemours, continue by Figuig and the water-shed of the Zusfana, along the Draa by the Province of Guezula till Cape Nun in the Atlantic, not far from Cape Cantado is reached.

It is also rumoured that the departure of the Chérif of Wazan, in consequence of differences of opinion with M. Féraud, who does not accept certain plans cherished by the Chérif in concert with Count Cavagnac, and in which the wife of the Chérif is said to have interfered.

No Kabile has ever demanded help against a French invasion. The Emperor is still at Marrash.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Extract from "Le Temps" of March 8, 1887.

LA presse de Madrid publie depuis quelque temps une série d'informations concernant le Maroc qui prêtent au Gouvernement Français le projet d'annexer une partie de cet Empire et qui ont vivement ému l'opinion publique en Espagne. Sur la foi de correspondances diverses qui rapportent indifféremment tous les racontars des Bazars de Tanger et que reproduit "l'Andalousia" sans les vérifier, on a annoncé tour à tour dans les journaux de la Péninsule que la France allait rappeler M. Féraud à la suite de l'insuccès de ses tentatives pour obtenir la signature d'un Traité de Commerce, que le

Maroc était mis en demeure de céder la rive droite du Moulaya, que l'on s'apprêtait en Algérie à s'emparer de l'oasis de Figuig, puis de celle de Tafilet, des bords du fleuve Draah, pour rejoindre l'Océan et isoler ainsi par le sud cette partie de l'Afrique.

Ces nouvelles, malgré lour caractère évidemment fantaisiste, n'ont pas laissé d'inquiéter à Madrid les cercles politiques et militaires, qui suivent avec une attention jalouse tout ce qui se passe au Maroc; M. Moret a été amené à s'en expliquer devant les Cortès; il a déclaré avoir reçu de M. Albareda l'assurance qu'il n'est pas question d'une rectification des frontières entre le Maroc et l'Algérie, que la France s'est toujours efforcée de tenir compte de la situation privilégiée que l'Espagne croit pouvoir réclamer dans le sud-ouest de l'Afrique, et qu'il n'y a aucun motif de croire qu'on nourrisse à Paris des projets de nature à blesser ces susceptibilités. M. Moret a ajouté qu'il veillait sur les agissements des autres Puissances au Maroc, et le Ministre de la Guerre, prenant ensuite la parole, a annoncé qu'il avait envoyé des canons aux stations Espagnoles sur la côte d'Afrique et ordonné quelques réparations aux fortifications de Ceuta, Melilla, et des Iles Chaffarines.

Ces déclarations sont faites sans doute plutôt pour tranquilliser l'opinion publique que pour indiquer la reprise par l'Espagne d'une politique plus active au Maroc. On sait fort bien à Madrid que rien de sérieux ne menace le *status quo* dans cette partie du bassin de la Méditerranée. Tout en suivant avec attention le développement du commerce Allemand au Maroc, l'activité que déploie en faveur de ses nationaux le Ministre d'Italie, la pose d'un câble Anglais entre Gibraltar et Tangier, le Gouvernement de Dona Christine a conscience que les diverses Puissances Européennes ont actuellement d'autres soucis que la question Marocaine. S'il est légitime que l'Espagne, à la suite de son expédition heureuse de 1859-60, de ses possessions sur la côte, de la Conférence de 1880, de ses traditions et de son commerce, croie avoir une mission historique à accomplir sur la rive Africaine du détroit de Gibraltar, elle aurait tort de redouter l'hostilité de la France pour ces plans lointains et de considérer notamment les précautions que nous sommes obligés de prendre contre les Bédouins aux environs de Figuig comme une menace pour l'intégrité du territoire Marocain.

No. 111.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 39. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Madrid, March* 10, 1887.

WITH reference to yonr Lordship's telegram No. 5 of the 7th instant, and to my reply of the 8th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that when I spoke to Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, respecting the substitution of words which Her Majesty's Government were desirous of effecting in the note which is to be addressed to the Morocco Government by the Representatives at Tangier of Spain, Italy, and Great Britain, I found that his Excellency was disinclined at first to agree to an alteration of the word "appui" for those of "bons offices." He appeared to consider the latter as not sufficiently strong, and as ill-calculated to impress the counsellors of His Shereefian Majesty.

I pointed out, however, to Señor Moret that the words "bons offices," which in English meant "good offices," expressed exactly the measure of the engagement which Her Majesty's Government were prepared to take in the matter. The word "appui," I said, would mean in English "support" or "assistance," and was considerably misleading, and might give rise to erroneous constructions being placed upon it.

I urged his Excellency to regard the question in its true light, and instead of raising difficulties as to words to look simply to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, of which there could exist no doubt; and I assured him that the moment Her Majesty's Government consented to join the Governments of Spain and Italy in a joint note to be addressed for a certain object to another Power, no doubt could exist as to their earnestness in the matter, or to their desire to carry out the object for which the note in question was framed.

After a short discussion, Señor Moret was convinced, and gave his assent to the proposed alteration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 112.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 119. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1887.

[Transmits copies of No. 21 to Mr. Kirby Green of February 24; and of Sir Clare Ford's No. 30 of February 27, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 74 and 89.]

No. 113.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 35. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 32, Confidential, of the 1st instant, and I have to convey to you my approval of the language which you used to Señor Moret, the Spanish Secretary of State, as reported therein, in connection with the question of the maintenance of the independence and integrity of the Moorish Empire.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 114.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 37. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1887.

[Transmits copy of No. 21 to Mr. Kirby Green of February 24, 1887: *ante*, No. 74.]

No. 115.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 31.) *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 30 of February 27, 1887: *ante*, No. 89.]

No. 116.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.[*]

(No. 186.) *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's telegram No. 6 of March 12, 1887: *ante*, No. 107.]

No. 117.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 139. Most Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 36, Most Confidential, of March 6, 1887: *ante*, No. 109.]

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[*] Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 123), Sir J. S. Lumley (No. 84), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 40).

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No. 118.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 37. Confidential.) *Tangier, March* 12, 1887.

My Lord,

THE collective note, addressed to Cid Emfadl Gharneet, of which I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy, was signed this morning by me and my Spanish and Italian colleagues, in the form indicated by your Lordship's telegram of the instant. It will reach the city of Morocco about the 17th or 18th, but I do not think it at all probable that the Sultan will make known his decision concerning it until after my arrival at the Moorish Court, and which I have announced as likely to take place in the first days of April.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Collective Note addressed to Cid Emfadl Gharneet by the Spanish, British, and Italian Ministers.

(Après les compliments.)

LES Soussignés, Représentants de l'Espagne, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de l'Italie viennent de recevoir de leurs Gouvernements respectifs l'ordre de porter à la connaissance de Sa Majesté Chérifienne que le maintien de l'indépendance et de l'intégrité territoriale de l'Empire Marocain est l'objet de leur vive sollicitude. Les dits Gouvernements sont convaincus que le Sultan ne saurait méconnaître l'avantage que Sa Majesté aurait à s'assurer leurs bons offices pour arriver à ce but. Par conséquent les Soussignés, agissant d'après les instructions qu'ils ont reçues, onr l'honneur de demander par l'entremise de votre Excellence que Sa Majesté s'engage formellement vis-à-vis de leurs Gouvernements respectifs à ne consentir dorénavant à aucune cession de territoire, ni à aucun arrangement territorial quelconque, sans s'être préalablement concerté avec les trois Gouvernements amis.

Les Soussignés prient votre Excellence de vouloir bien leur transmettre dans le plus bref délai possible la réponse de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, afin qu'ils puissent en référer à leurs Gouvernements.

Paix.

(Signé) DIOSDADO Y CASTELLO.
W. KIRBY GREEN.
ET. SCOVASSO.

Le 12 *Mars*, 1887 (16 *Djumadi II*, 1304).

No. 119.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 43.) *Madrid, March* 18, 1887.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of an extract from a Spanish newspaper, giving a report of an interpellation which was made in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies on the 14th instant, together with the Minister of State's reply thereto, respecting French intrigues in Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Extract from "El Imparcial" of March 15, 1887.

Sitting of Congress, March 15, 1887.

(Translation.)

General Lopez Dominguez, referring to a question he had asked some time ago of the Conde de Toreno regarding the affairs of Morocco, stated that since then, and

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notwithstanding the explanation given by the Minister of State, the press continued taking deep interest in these important questions. He stated that the French Minister, M. Féraud, and the German Minister, have been summoned by their respective Governments, and that the appointment of a Governor at Uchjda, on the Algerian frontier, is considered as a triumph of French politics.

He referred to the intrigues of these nations in Morocco with the object of gaining certain advantages, and wished to know if the Government had any knowledge of this, and if they were informed of the intention of the British Government to construct barracks in the vicinity of Tetuan.

He considered that if France is extending her frontiers towards the River Muluga, and that if Germany is developing her trade in that country, Spain must abandon whatever hopes she may have in Africa.

The Minister of State, fully acknowledging the importance of this question, stated that the Government is well informed of what is taking place in that country, and that the prestige and influence of Spain in Africa will be duly watched by them. It is to be considered, he adds, that the frontiers of Morocco are not like ours, and that they are formed by an imaginary line almost undetermined, which runs from the Atlantic towards the desert. He has, he says, the same information as General Lopez Dominguez with regard to the appointment of the Governor of Oudah, and of the construction of a fort in the frontier between Algiers and Morocco.

Any question relating to Morocco is of importance to Spain, and I may state, he adds, before Parliament that every European nation has admitted this fact, and that this Government will act in accordance with the traditions and history of Spain.

General Lopez Dominguez rectified and referred to the cable laid between Gibraltar and Tangiers; and

The Minister of State replied that the Government of Morocco protested against this, but had to accept what was an accomplished fact.

The Marquis de la Vega Armijo is satisfied with the explanations given by Señor Moret, and explained what took place with regard to the Tangier cable, stating that the nation which first proposed to do this was Spain, but that she did not do so in conformity with the *statu quo* policy followed respecting Morocco, and which she did not wish to annul, or to accept the consequences which would result from laying that cable. But the *statu quo* policy, he added, has its limits, and in this I agree with General Lopez Dominguez. These limits are the initiative of other nations.

General Lopez Dominguez rectified again, and stated that the initiative of Deputies is extremely beneficial in international questions, as it aids the action of the Government.

No. 120.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 42. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1887.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 39, Confidential, of the 10th instant, in regard to the objections entertained by Señor Moret, the Spanish Secretary of State, to the substitution of the words "bons offices" for "appui," which Her Majesty's Government were desirous of effecting in the note that is to be addressed to the Moorish Government by the Representatives at Tangier of Great Britain, Spain, and Italy.

I have to convey to you my approval of the language which you used to his Excellency, as reported in your despatch, and which resulted in his acceptance of the proposed alteration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 121.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 44. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1887.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 33, Confidential, of the 1st instant, reporting what had passed at your interview on that day with Señor Moret, the Spanish Secretary of State, in regard to reforms and administrative improvement in Morocco.

In conveying to you my approval of your language, as reported in your despatch, I have at the same time to express the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at Señor Moret's assurances that they could confidently rely on the co-operation of the Spanish Government in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 122.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.**

(No. 196. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 27, Confidential, of February 23, 1887: *ante*, No. 83.]

No. 123.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 153. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 32 and 33, Confidential, of March 1; No. 38 of March 9; No. 39, Confidential, of March 10; Mr Kirby Green's Nos. 32 and 35, Confidential, of March 2 and 6: *ante*, Nos. 100, 101, 104, 109, 110, and 111.]

No. 124.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.†

(No. 98. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 32 and 33, Confidential, of March 1; No. 38 of March 9; No. 39, Confidential, of March 10; Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 32 and 35, Confidential, of March 2 and 6: *ante*, Nos. 100, 101, 104, 109, 110, and 111.]

No. 125.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 47. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 32 and 35, Confidential, of March 2 and 6; and No. 30 to ditto, dated March 14, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 104, 109, and 111.]

No. 126.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 37. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 32 and 33, Confidential, of March 1; No. 38 of March 9; and No. 39, Confidential, of March 10, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 100, 101, 110, and 111.]

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* Also to Sir J. S. Lumley (No. 92, Confidential), Sir E. Malet (No. 141, Confidential), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 43, Confidential).

† Also to Viscount Lyons (No. 203).

No. 127.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 40.) *Tangier, March 17, 1887.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 26 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the French Minister, M. Féraud, returned here to-day from Paris, and that the Shereef of Wazan is on his way to the French capital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 128.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.**

(No. 222. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 2, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 37, Confidential, of March 12; and of Sir Clare Ford's No. 43 of March 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 118 and 119.]

No. 129.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 48. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 2, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 37, Confidential, of March 12, 1887: *ante*, No. 118.]

No. 130.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 39.) *Foreign Office, April 2, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 43 of March 18, 1887: *ante*, No. 119.]

No. 131.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 44. Confidential.) *Tangier, March 27, 1887.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 40 of the 17th instant, that the Shereef of Wazan returned here from Paris the day before yesterday. He travelled through Spain, and was, I understand, treated by the authorities with whom he came in contact in that country with considerable distinction.

The Shereef, as well as several members of his suite, when they landed at Tangier, were dressed in French military uniforms.

My Spanish colleague, Señor Diosdado, informs me that he has had the advantage within the last few days of conversing more than once with M. Féraud, not only on the subject of the Shereef's visit to Paris, but also on the object of the French Minister's own recent journey to France.

Señor Diosdado has gathered that M. Féraud, when he proceeded to give an account to the French Government of his late intercourse with the Sultan, was under the impression that he had failed to meet with the approbation of his superiors, and that consequently he would not be allowed to return to Morocco.

M. Féraud asserts that his policy in this country is opposed to that of an influential "party of action," headed by M. Etienne, Deputy for the Algerian Department of Oran,

* Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 107, Confidential) and Sir E. Malet (No. 175, Confidential).

Count Chavagnac, the chief exponent in this country of M. Ordega's views, and the Shereef of Wazan. This party, it appears, though M. Féraud does not exactly admit it, is supported by M. Ferry. It wants France to assume at once the Protectorate of Morocco in the same manner as it has been carried out in Tunis, and to reward the Shereef of Wazan for his co-operation by making him nominal Ruler of the country.

The party in question maintains that it is a patriotic duty to divert the energy of France from dangerous thoughts of a war of revenge, and to allay at the same time the fears of Germany of such a war, and that this can be best accomplished by opening up Morocco to military and industrial enterprise.

The French Minister wishes it to be believed that he is of an exactly contrary opinion. He says he considers the Shereef of Wazan's influence in Morocco as non-existent, the industrial and commercial advantages held out by the country as most problematical, whilst the danger of involving France in difficulties with more than one European Government would be inevitable. It was in this sense, M. Féraud declares, that he spoke to M. Flourens. He explained to him that if he was not to be allowed to show the Sultan that France does not protect the whole of the Shereef's adherents in Morocco, but simply the Shereef and his family, and that she, France, wishes to go hand in hand with other foreign Governments for the due maintenance of the territorial integrity and independence of Morocco, he was prepared to give up the task of being the exponent of French policy to Mulai Hassan.

That language of this kind has been held with considerable efficacy to the Sultan by my French colleague is certain. That it should have been necessary for him to hold it to M. Flourens in order to prevent his recall is somewhat doubtful. Note need merely be taken, I think, of these statements, lest some day one of "the party of action," as M. Féraud terms his alleged opponents, should be sent to replace him in this country. Such an event would then have to be accepted as an official avowal that the *status quo* in Morocco is to be overthrown.

Señor Diosdado is disposed to so far consider M. Féraud's explanations as to credit the existence of opponents to his policy under the guidance of M. Ferry, M. Etienne, the Shereef, and others. He also thinks that the French Minister has gained such mastery over the Sultan that he might succeed in course of time in inducing His Shereefian Majesty to spontaneously solicit the protection of France, and that the French Government has been momentarily persuaded to give its Representative a free hand for pushing forward his aims.

But whether M. Féraud's and Señor Diosdado's conversations together afford or not a correct insight into the way in which French ends are to be attained is, I venture to think, immaterial.

There can be no doubt that France is seeking to establish her preponderance in this country, and that M. Féraud believes he can manage it by gentle means, that is, by gaining the confidence of the Sultan and allaying the suspicions of the foreign Representatives. If the French Minister's present course is found wanting, it will probably become quickly apparent that he and the French Government had never really broken from the "party of action," and that M. Féraud's and the Shereef's simultaneous summons to Paris was solely for the better blending of their separate influences in favour of a common end.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 132.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.**

(No. 239.) *Foreign Office, April 13, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 40 of March 17, 1887: *ante*, No. 127.]

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* Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No 118), Sir E. Malet (No. 192), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 53).

No. 133.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. J. G. Kennedy.

(No. 126A. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April* 22, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 44, Confidential, of March 27, 1887: *ante*, No. 131.]

No. 134.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.**

(No. 257. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April* 23, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 44, Confidential, of March 27, 1887: *ante*, No. 131.]

No. 135.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Scott.

(No. 205. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April* 23, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 44, Confidential, of March 27, 1887: *ante*, No. 131.]

No. 136.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.†

(No. 266. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 30 of February 24, 1887: *ante*, No. 92.]

No. 137.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 54. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Morocco, April* 25, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 37, Confidential, of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that yesterday, during a private audience granted me by the Sultan, I inquired of His Shereefian Majesty whether he had taken under his consideration the collective note addressed on the 12th ultimo by my Spanish and Italian colleagues and myself, in accordance with instructions from our respective Governments, to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Sultan replied that he was disposed to attach considerable value to the note, but that, as it was incumbent on him in all important matters to submit them, before final decision, to the examination of trusted counsellors, he had sent the note to Fez, where one of his most experienced advisers resides. The Sultan promised that, as soon as he had received this counsellor's advice, he would give orders for a reply to be furnished to me and my before-mentioned colleagues.

I will not, however, hide from your Lordship that the impression left upon me by the manner in which the Sultan spoke of the steps taken through the note was that His Majesty distrusts its possible effects, if not its real object. I fear the Sultan's uneducated mind is not very capable of taking a broad view of the political position or exigencies of his country. His Mussulman standing as a spiritual magnate shuts him

* Also to Sir Clare Ford (No. 56, Confidential).

† Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 134, Confidential), Mr. Scott (No. 216, Confidential), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 60, Confidential).

out of attempting willingly to approach one Christian Power or friend more than another, and the only outside influence to which he is really subject is that of fear. He fears his powerful Kaïds and tribes as much as he does foreign Governments. Of these latter he fears most the French and Spanish, for they have given him more frequent proofs of their power to injure him.

In this matter of the collective note I should not be surprised to learn that the asserted trusted counsellor at Fez is, in fact, M. Féraud, the French Minister at Tangier; and if the latter should recommend the note to be rejected, I have no doubt the Sultan will go on nibbling at it with the pretence of final acceptance until actual events throw it out of count.

Under this conviction, I felt it right to say to the Sultan that the three Governments who had advised the safeguard together were quite capable of taking care of their respective interests alone and separately, and that, if the Sultan thought he was in a similar position, he might follow their example. But if only vague distrust of something to be done in secret was weighing on His Majesty's mind, I was sure there could be no objection to his publicly adhering to the terms of the note.

The note was intended to be a check on those who have covetous intentions on Morocco, and it would be all the more efficacious when its existence was generally known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 138.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 48. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 18, 1887.

I HAVE received your despatch No 54, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, reporting the substance of a conversation which you had had, during a private audience granted to you by the Sultan of Morocco, upon the subject of the collective note addressed to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 12th ultimo, by your Spanish and Italian colleagues and yourself, in regard to the maintenance of the integrity of His Shereefian Majesty's dominions.

I have now to convey to you my approval of the language used by you on the occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 139.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 56. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Morocco, May* 7, 1887.

YOUR Lordship is probably aware that shortly after the Moorish Government employed Captain MacLean to organize some of its levies into regular infantry, the French Government imposed upon it a certain number of officers, on the ground of helping it to improve its artillery force.

But these officers, instead of having, like Captain MacLean, retired from their own army, are still considered on active service, wear the French uniform, are under the direct control of the War Office in Paris, and entitle themselves as "Mission Militaire" attached to the French Legation in Morocco.

The Sultan has himself told me that he considers them as nothing but French military spies, and he asked me how I thought he could get rid of them. He had attempted to do so by refraining from paying them, but when M. Féraud was here during last autumn he had caused His Majesty to rectify the omission.

I necessarily was careful in my answer to the Sultan, and led him to see that perhaps he had better endure what he evidently could not very well prevent.

Your Lordship will thus observe that, though an opportunity was afforded me, I did not avail myself of it to throw difficulties in the way of the French officers. I feel, therefore, that your Lordship will acquit me of being influenced by any feeling of national

or other jealousy when I state that Commandant de Breuille, Captain Schmitt, and Dr. Lenarez, who are the principal members of the French Military Commission here, have shown marked discourtesy towards me as Her Majesty's Representative by abstaining from calling on me on my arrival at the Moorish Court.

Christians and foreigners are so few in number here and occupy so peculiar a position that anything that tends to leave the native mind with the impression that they and their respective Governments are not united and are at variance with each other is much to be deplored. The conduct of the above-named officers in abstaining from all intercourse with myself and my mission can have resulted in producing no other but that belief among the Sultan and his surroundings. They may have even wished to make His Majesty believe that they consider my appearance at his Court as an intrusion to be resented. M. Féraud's conduct last autumn towards Kaid MacLean and his brother, also a late officer in the English army, was in consonance with that of the French Military Commission. The MacLeans called on the French Envoy, but he abstained from having any intercourse with them.

It has always been a guiding principle with me to keep on the most friendly terms with all colleagues and foreigners, in order to prevent the Eastern peoples among whom I have been from making capital out of supposed national jealousies and rivalries; and, as I feel sure that my doing so will meet with your Lordship's approval, I trust your Lordship will not refuse to make it known in the proper quarter how much it is to be regretted that the conduct of the French Military Commission in Morocco has tended to give the Moors a very unfavourable view of the generosity and openness of the European character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 140.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.**

(No. 323. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, May 28, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 54, Confidential, of April 25; and No. 48, Confidential, to ditto, dated May 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 137 and 138.]

No. 141.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 50. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 2, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 56, Confidential, of the 7th instant, upon the subject of the French Military Mission in Morocco; and I have to convey to you my approval of the language which you held to the Sultan in regard thereto, as reported in your despatch.

With respect to the discourtesy shown to you by the members of the Mission, you did quite right in reporting it. At the same time, I doubt the expediency of making a representation to the French Government in the matter, and do not propose, therefore, to take any action in that direction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 252, Confidential), Mr. Kennedy (No. 169, Confidential), and Sir C. Ford (No. 74, Confidential).

No. 142.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 361. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, June 15, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 56, Confidential, of May 7; and No. 50, Confidential, to ditto, dated June 2, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 139 and 141.]

No. 143.

Foreign Office to War Office.

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, June 15, 1887.*

[Transmits extract from Mr. Kirby Green's No. 56, Confidential, of May 7, 1887: *ante*, No. 139.]

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RECORD OFFICE, LONDON